

## **Colossians 3:1-4**

1 In contrast to the ritual that the false teachers wanted to impose on the believers at the end of the last chapter, Paul encouraged them to seek heavenly realities. That does not mean forget about and disengage from the earth, for the chapter goes on to describe how we engage with the world by submitting to God's established authority. That requires a death to self as the authority and submission to God. We see the world in a new light, the light of eternity where Christ is all that matters. Above is the realm where Christ reigns, at the right hand (place of power) of God.

If we were buried with Jesus in baptism, then we are raised with Him to newness of life. (2:12) Resurrection power is at work in us, empowering us to live a new life. (Romans 6:4) We set our hearts on heavenly things. (Philippians 3:14)

2 This is an imperative command. Set/fix our mind on things above. What things are above? Well, the Bible tells us they are beyond what we can imagine, but we do have a few specifics. We'll have a heavenly reward, a resurrected body, we'll forever worship before the throne of God, and an end of all sorrow and loss. Most of all, we'll have an unhindered relationship with Jesus. What we dwell on will affect our attitude and our actions. (2Corinthians 10:5) Heavenly minded people have an unstoppable joy and a positive outlook. They focus on the things that make an eternal difference.

3 Did you die with Jesus? How can you tell? (2Corinthians 5:17) Your desires will be different. Your hunger for the Word will increase. You will sometimes be surprised by what you say and do because it is so unlike the person you once were. The fruit of the Spirit will be manifest rather than the fruit of the old nature that died with Christ.

How are we hidden in Christ? You are not exposed like you once were to every onslaught of the enemy. In Christ, you have a place of shelter. The Old Testament called it a stronghold or refuge. (Psalm 61:4; 144:2) How should that affect your outlook in the face of adversity?

The Jews looked forward to the coming Messiah as a day in which resurrection and upheaval took place. The Kingdom of God was seen like a second King David. Paul is saying it is here now, but the visible fullness is still hidden in Christ. It's described in the next verse.

4 Christ is our life! (Galatians 2:20) Would people say that of you? Can I truly say, "As far as I'm concerned, it's all about Jesus!" When He appears, the unveiling or revealing, then our bodies will be transformed to live in an eternal state. (Philippians 1:21) We, the body of Christ, will be with Jesus in glory! That is quite a promise. (1John 3:2)

Have you ever noticed how people desire to be on the winning team, or with a respected leader? We naturally like to bask in the glory of another. This is the ultimate expression of that desire, to appear with Christ in glory.