

“Defying Depravity through Christ’s Resurrection”

Colossians 3:1-17

*The Law of Depravity is a lot like gravity,
It always pulls us Down, Down, Down!*

*Down into sin!
Down into death!
Down ultimately to Hell!*

*The resurrection of Christ has the opposite effect:
It lifts us up!*

- *It lifts us up to righteousness, love and all virtue, giving us victory over sin!*
- *It lifts us up to LIFE (even eternal life) giving us victory over death!*
- *It lifts us up to Heaven, delivering us from Hell and all its fiery eternal pains!*

The lifting, raising power of the resurrection is seen in the passage we will consider today. Christ’s resurrection demands our response –

If then you were raised with Christ (Col 3:1 NKJ) ...

I. Seek those things which are above –

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (Colossians 3:1 NKJ)

- 1. Higher Heavenly things!*
- 2. The things of Christ, those things that are where Christ is*

II. Set your mind on those things –

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:2-4 NKJ)

- 1. We need to set our minds, because sin makes them unstable, draws them constantly toward earthly and even sinful things*
- 2. We need to set our minds on things above because we are “dead” to this world!*
- 3. We need to set our mind on things above –*
 - A. Because they are hidden from the world –*

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJ)
 - B. Because our life is “hid” it is difficult even for us to see –*

¹² **For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1Co 13:12 NKJ)**

For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJ)

C. “hidden with Christ in God” means “our life” is in a safe place –

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;²⁰ "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20 NKJ)

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.²⁹ "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.³⁰ "I and My Father are one." (John 10:28-30 NKJ)

*4. We need to set our minds on this above because when Christ returns *are “hidden life” will appear with Him –**

⁴ **When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

III. Kill your sins -

⁵ **Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. (Col 3:5-7 NKJ)**

- 1. Christ waged a passionate war against our sins, at Gethsemane, at the cross*
- 2. We are commanded to put them to DEATH*

3. *They we bring eternal wrath on the unconverted*
4. *They are what we walked in BEFORE CHRIST*

IV. *Put off (like filthy rags) your sins –*

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, (Col 3:8-9 NKJ)

1. *Notice the difference between this list of sins, and those listed in :5 – 7 Those were primarily internal, these EXTERNAL*
2. *Like clothing, these sins involve our appearance, even our witness, they destroy it –*
3. *The old man here is (a.) Adam from whom we inherited our sin nature (b.) the sin nature itself*

V. *Put on (like a new suit) the clothing provided by Christ –*

¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all. ¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must* do. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Col 3:10-14 NKJ)

1. *The NEW MAN is a reference to Christ*
 - A. *:10 renewed in knowledge*
 - B. *Righteousness and holiness –*

and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24 NKJ)

2. *In Christ old divisions are eliminated –*

¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

3. *We are to dress as God's elect (chosen) holy and beloved - :12-14*
 - A. *What are mentioned here are fruits of God's Spirit*
 - B. *These characteristics imply SIN in the church*

C. *"as Christ" :13 implies we are held to an extremely HIGH STANDARD!*

D. *:14 Love holds the entire ensemble together*

⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." (1Pe 4:8 NKJ)

VI. *Let the peace of God rule, let the Word of God dwell –*

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:15-16 NKJ)

1. *The peace of God "rules" like an umpire/ judge in our hearts*
2. *The Word of God dwells richly, finding its home sweet home in our hearts*
3. *We are commanded to teach, admonish and sing (in our hearts) to the Lord*

VII. *Everything is to be done in Christ's Name, meaning for His glory –*

And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:17 NKJ)

1. *This is outward again*
2. *Word (speech) Deed (actions)*
3. *All refers to everything –*

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. (Colossians 3:18-25 NKJ)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJ)