

Lurgan Free Presbyterian Church

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Colossians 3:1- 4

Risen with Christ

The Apostle Paul here writing to the believer's in the city of **Colossae** he reminded them they were set in heavenly places. As such he urged them **v2** to set their affection on things above. In other words, they were to direct their whole attention towards heavenly things. By putting it in the **present tense** he was indicating this was to be a daily pursuit.

While our feet here are on earth our minds are to be in heaven. We are primarily to be seeking that which is eternal rather than that which is earthly. (**Philip, 4:8**)

1. OUR RESURRECTION WITH CHRIST: As well as dying in Christ they had risen with him. Rising they were called:

a) To A Life Of Separation: **v1** "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God". Being risen they were no longer to be dwelling in the place of death or corruption but to be casting off the grave clothes which speak of sin.

Being risen with Christ we are to be seeking to be as righteous as Christ is. **v5** "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God". The word "mortify" comes from the Latin word "mortuary". A mortuary is a place for dead people. In other words, rather than feeding uncleanness & covetousness they were to be putting them to death.

b) To A Life Of Supplication: Passing from death to life we read **v1** "If ye then be risen with Christ". Christ rising from the tomb and ascending into heaven we are told in **Heb. 8:1** that sitting he is our great high priest. He gave himself to prayer.

Being risen with Christ we are also to ascend with him. Entering into the holy of holies to make intercession. (**Acts 2:42**) .

c) To A Life Of Success: Rising from the dead Paul tells us **Eph. 1:21** that sitting down at the father's right hand he is "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named". Being risen with Christ and seated at the father's right hand he was reminding them they were also far above principalities and powers. There was no enemy they could not overcome.

In Christ we are not **fighting for victory** but we are **fighting from the victory**. (**2 Cor. 2:14**)

2. OUR REFUGE IN CHRIST: While there were many enemies within this city Paul now reminds them, their lives were hidden. Notice: -

a) Their Security In Christ: v3 "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God". The word "with" here can equally be rendered "in". As such it can be read "hidden in Christ in God". Not only were they in Christ but Christ was in God. They were doubly surrounded so that the enemy could not even see them

The door that seals our salvation has a double lock. It is locked in Christ and then in God. (**John 10:28**)

b) Their Secrecy In Christ: v3 "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God". The same word is used in **Luke 8:17**. There the Lord tells us that which is hid will be made known. Their lives being hid in Christ they could not be seen but only Christ could be seen.

Rather than manifesting self we are to be manifesting the Saviour. To let him alone to be seen is us. John said **John 3:30** "He must increase, but I must decrease".

c) Their Sufficiency In Christ: **Ch2:3** "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge". If all treasures are hid in Christ and we are also hid in Christ then we have access to them.

Christ is not only our Saviour but he is our sufficiency. In him we have access to all the recourses of heaven.

3. OUR RETURN WITH CHRIST: Not only had they died in Christ and risen with Christ but notice here:-

a) They Would Come With Christ: v4 “When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”. The word “*appear*” here speaks of an open display. Coming in all his glory, every eye beholding him he will bring with him those whom he has raised from the grave of spiritual death.

Not only are we positionally with Christ but we will presently appear with Christ. We will come with him in all his glory. **1 Thess 4:17.**

b) They Would Be Conformed To Christ: v4 “When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”. Christ coming in all his glory their bodies will be transformed. They will be made glorious like unto his glorious body.

In that day our **mortality** shall take on **immortality** and our **corruption** will take on **incorruption**. Our earthly body will become an eternal body.

c) They Would Be Crowned By Christ: v4 “When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”. What is part of a king’s glory? It is his crown. In other words, they would in that day be crowned.

While our coronation is future it is certain. In that day we will reign with him. Our reward is coming.