

THE KINGDOM OF THE BELOVED SON: LIFE UNDER THE REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST

Topics:

1. Our Cosmic Deliverance: Where the Christian Life Begins (Col 1:13-14)
2. Christ is All, and in All: Our Identity in the Kingdom (Col 3:11)
3. The Society of Jesus: Our Church in the Kingdom (Col 3:12-17)
4. *In Nomine Christi*: Our Work and Play in the Kingdom (Col 3:17)
5. The Dream Home: Our Families in the Kingdom (Col 3:18-21)
6. **The Heaven-Bound Heart: The Quest for the Kingdom (Col 3:1-4)**

THE HEAVEN-BOUND HEART: THE QUEST FOR THE KINGDOM

I. Introduction

II. Colossians 3:1-4: The Heaven-Bound Heart

- A. The Implication of Being Raised with Christ (Col 3:1)
 1. We have been raised *with* Christ!
 2. Therefore seek the things that are above
 3. “Above” is where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God
- B. What to Set Your Minds on and What Not to (Col 3:2)
- C. Why We Can (and Must) Set Our Minds on Things Above (Col 3:3)
 1. We have died (see also Rom 6:1-11)
 2. Our life is hidden with Christ in God
- D. The Promise for All Who Are Raised with Christ (Col 3:4)
- E. How Do We Seek the Things That Are Above? — By *embracing* Jesus Christ
 1. We embrace Christ as our *life* (Col 3:4).
 2. We embrace Christ as our *identity*; the core of who we are (Col 3:11)
 3. We embrace Christ is our *example*
 - a. The mind of Christ
 - b. The values of Christ
 - c. The practice of Christ
 - d. The mission of Christ

Embracing God’s Word: “According to his love and mercy, God the Father has freed me from my sins and raised me with Christ. On the basis of the word of God, I say that I am now seated at the right hand of God, with my Lord Jesus Christ. My life is hidden with Christ, eternally protected in God. Therefore, I now set my thoughts, and my affections, and my desires on the things above. I turn away from the old obsessions. I cast off the old sins. In their place, I lay hold of Christ and the beautiful kingdom of God.

I embrace Christ as my life. I embrace Christ as my identity. I embrace Christ as my law.”

Questions for further discussion:

1. According to Col 3:1, where are we now? How did such a state of affairs happen to us? (see Rom 6 also)
2. In what sense have we died with Christ and raised with him?
3. Since we have been raised with Christ, where are we now located?
4. According to 3:1, what is the immediate implication of being raised with Christ?
5. What does it mean to set our minds on things above? How do we do this?
6. Have you been joined to Christ? How do you know?