

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE Colossians 3.1-4

Have you ever noticed how earthly minded we are? Most of our time and attention is centered on things right around us. And this should not be surprising. After all, we live on this planet at a certain time and in a certain place. We are physical beings in a physical world. It's natural for us to think about our jobs, our material possessions, our finances, our health, and the people who are important to us. We live in the dimensions of time and space, and we must function in this natural world by the physical principles that define it.

But there is a certain sense in which we can become trapped in this dimension. If we are not careful, even as Christians, we will lose our ability to see beyond the natural into the supernatural.

I want to see more of that realm. It reminds me of the story in 2 Kings 6 of Elisha and his servant.

Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6.17

In our text today, the apostle Paul is reminding us of who we are in Christ and of how important it is to see ourselves from that perspective. He's showing us that how we live our lives on earth depends on our having a heavenly perspective. As we look at it together, let's pray that God would open our eyes to see into the spiritual realm.

A New Identity

¹ Since, then, **you have been raised with Christ**, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For **you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God**. When **Christ, who is your life**, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3.1-4 NIV

*This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. **For the LORD is your life**, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Deuteronomy 30.11-20*

A New Focus

³ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. ⁴ For you died, and **your life is now hidden with Christ in God**. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3.1-4

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

'You do not want to leave too, do you?' Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.' John 6.66-69

So, what are these things above we are to seek?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5.22-23