



The Epistle to the Colossians

Col 3:1,2 'Raised Up with Christ'

• *Col 3:1 – “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”*

- Remember chapter 2 wherein Paul warns the church at Colossae about the dangers of Gnostic teaching and false philosophy; now in chapter 3 he directs them above.
 - Paul here reiterates *Col 2:12 - buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*
- *If* appears to be subjunctive; however, here *If* is better translated *since* (first class condition), why?
 - Because *to be risen with Christ* is aorist, passive, indicative.
 - How's this for identification!
 - » *Rom 6:8 – we died with Christ*
 - » *Rom 8:17 – joint heirs with Christ*
 - » *Gal 2:20 – crucified with Christ*
 - » *Eph 2:5 – made alive together with Christ*



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- » *Phil 1:23 – ratherbe with Christ*
- » *Col 3:3 – life hidden with Christ*

- *seek (present active imperative) those things that are above*
 - *What things are above?*
 - *Whatever, that's where Christ is, and we are positioned in all that He is!*
 - *Phil 3:20 - For our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - *John 12:32 - “And I, if I am **lifted up from the earth**, will draw all peoples to Myself.”*
 - » *All peoples?*
- *Is being seated at the right hand of God important, and if so why?*
 - *Many verses (n=21) indicate that Christ has ascended and sits at the right hand of God: *Matt 26:64; Mark 14:62, 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:34; Rom 8:34; Eph 1:20; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3, 1:13, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2.* The interpretation by Thayer is that He has become a partner in God's universal government – isn't it stronger than this?*



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Vaughn - "The description of Christ as 'seated at the right hand of God' is another implied rejoinder to those who were seeking to diminish Christ's role as mediator, inasmuch as the right hand of God is a metaphor for the place of supreme privilege and divine authority."

- Heaven itself, is the place where a glorified Man, Himself God the Son, is seated, and His work of salvation finished!

• ***Col 3:2 – “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”***

- *Set* is also *striving for* and is present active imperative – do it!
 - Lightfoot – “You must not only *seek* heaven; you must also *think* heaven”
- What does this mean and how is this ***applied?***
 - What *things* are and who is *above?*
 - *Eph 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*
 - What *things* are on *earth* and are they intrinsically sinful?



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- Wealth, honor, pleasure?
- Kosmos – world system?
- Do you agree with Constable?
 - ‘This is the legitimate mysticism of Paul. The two commands differ in that the first emphasizes the more practical pursuits of life whereas the second stresses the whole bent of the life. The first is outward and the second inward.’
 - *Col 2:20 - Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations*
 - *Phil 3:19 - whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*
- When we heed this verse, our position increasingly becomes our condition; otherwise we are overly influenced by Satan, the world system and the sin nature.
 - *Rom 12:2 - And **do not be conformed** to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*