

MAR. 25, 2018

Study Page: Col. 3:1-4

Raised With Christ

Reading Colossians 3:1-4

In the previous paragraph (2:20), we found that expression, “If with Christ you died,” and we connected that with their initial response to the gospel in baptism (back to 2:12).

Here is a similar expression that has that same connection, **“If you have been raised with Christ.”**

When a lost person hears the gospel and is moved by the death, burial and resurrection of Christ – their response bears a resemblance to those historical truths (see Rom. 6:4). We are buried with Christ in baptism and “raised from the dead” to “walk in newness of life.” This is all about one’s initial responses to the gospel.

So here in chapter three of Colossians, “if you have been raised with Christ” is equivalent to, **if you have become a Christian; if you are a baptized believer.**

If you are, there is this life-direction: *seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*



Colossians:

Study Page: Col. 3:1-4



Your thought patterns are not scattered or random or worldly. You have in mind – all the time – this joyful seeking of the things that are above. Your heart is fixed in this direction. Therefore, your life moves in this heavenly direction.

In verse 2, this becomes an imperative: “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” If your mind is filled with considerations of things limited to this earth, and you have to make a little room to think about God and “go to church” and pray a little (especially when you are stressed), your life isn’t fixed where it needs to be. “Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

Why? “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Again, “you have died” is a reference to one’s initial response to Christ (see again, Col. 2:12 with Rom. 6:1-4). If you have made that choice, your life after baptism must have this solid heavenly direction.

“Your life is hidden with Christ in God.” This doesn’t mean you are invisible, out of sight or not connected to people. The word “hidden” here carries the idea of protection. Those who walk with Christ are protected by Him and “hidden” with Him “in God.” While this fellowship is dependent on your initial and continued response to Christ (see Col. 2:6,7), what is assured here is protection, safety and intimacy with deity.

You have been raised to life with Christ. Now set your heart on what is in heaven, where Christ rules at God’s right side. ² Think about what is up there, not about what is here on earth. ³ You died, which means that your life is hidden with Christ, who sits beside God. ⁴ Christ gives meaning to your life, and when he appears, you will also appear with him in glory.

And this mind-set has hope: “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

This is really a “way of life” passage and – behind that - a “way of thinking” passage. This way of thinking and living will be consummated in a glorious way, “when He comes, in that day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed,” (2 Thess. 1:10).