

Introduction

The importance of right thinking

- What we think about matters!
- The battle right now is for our minds - the enemy is fighting hard to discourage us - directing our focus from God's plan and purpose
- Deceiving us by keeping us thinking only about the immediate struggles

Introduction to the text

- This morning I want to share from Colossians chapter 3
- Paul has heard of the faith of these believers, and having never met them gives them a practical introduction to Christianity - specifically dealing with some of the issues facing the believers in that day
- In our text, he reminds them of their status as believers and encourages them to adopt a **heavenly mindset**
- **Col 3:1-4 (ESV)** *(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

This message

- I want to use the passage to remind us of our status and direct us to the action should flow from that
- I will also refer to Rom 6 throughout the message as well

Message

This morning, I want to look at two things from this passage (and it's surrounding context)

A reminder of our status

This passage speaks about the status of our lives as believers

My past

My past can be divided into two parts: before Christ, and after Christ

BEFORE I MET JESUS

- I lived as I wanted to live
- I was ruled by my flesh, earthly desires
- It was all about me!
- I was under God's wrath

AFTER I MET JESUS

- Praise the Lord - one day I received the message of salvation through Jesus Christ
- I **gave me life** to him!
- I was baptized in water, signifying my death with him.
- See **Rom 6:3-4 (ESV)** (3) *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?* (4) *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

My present

- We live here, but we've been born from above
- We have died to this world, buried with Christ in baptism
- See Paul's assessment **Gal 2:20 (ESV)** (20) *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

My future

- See **Col 3:3-4 (ESV)** (3) *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* (4) *When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*
- My life, my hope, my everything is in Jesus Christ. When he appears - I too will be with him in glory
- See again **Rom 6:5 (ESV)** (5) *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
- And **Rom 6:8 (ESV)** (8) *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

The call to action as a result

This chapter, surrounding context speaks about how this plays out

Set my mind on things above

The primary focus of this passage is to change our thinking

MY PRIORITIES

- My life should be driven by heaven's priorities
- We are called to go and make disciples

MY HOPE

- This world is not my home
- My life is with Jesus
- This world, this life is about that new life that I'll receive when he appears
- So easy to lose sight of this truth

Remove the remnants of this world

- Paul goes on to urge them to eliminate what's left of this world in us
- **Col 3:5-9 (ESV)** *(5) Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (6) On account of these the wrath of God is coming. (7) In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. (8) But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices*
- The way I used to live put me under God's wrath, but I've died
- Living out this death is what I'm to do each day
- In Romans 6 we're to *reckon ourselves dead*

Live a heaven filled life here

- We are to put on this new life / new self **Col 3:10 (ESV)** *(10) and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*
- We are to be filled with the Spirit of heaven
- See **Col 3:12-14 (ESV)** *(12) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (14) And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*
- As we live with one another - let us live in love

Closing

If

- This whole passage, this whole message begins with **if**
- Have I given my life to Christ?
- Have I traded this present life for a future hope?

Set your minds on things above

- This world is not my home
- This is not my life - my life is hidden with Christ in God!
- Change what you think about
- Let the expression of that hope change your discouragement and fear to hope and love!