

Since you have been raised up with Christ

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

The protasis (dependent clause of a conditional sentence) is introduced by a 1st class condition and should be translated: **since** introducing a condition of ‘fact’ for everyone who has believed in Jesus Christ as Savior. And this introduces the basis for the exhortation that follows in chapters 3 and 4.

Therefore the Greek inferential particle is used here to pick up the sequence of thought of Col 2:20 **since you have died with Christ.**

Therefore (since you died with Him) now by the grace and power of God- **since you have been raised up with Christ.** It is sad but a true fact that few Christians even understand what it means to have died with Christ and/or what it means to be raised up with Christ.

Since you have been raised up this is the Aorist Passive Indicative of the compound Greek verb—*to be raised up together with*. The Aorist is the point in time when you believed in Jesus Christ as your Savior—this is your status as being in Christ. And the passive voice is important here. This is something we all receive by grace, you do nothing to be raised up

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with Christ. And faith is like doing nothing because there is no merit in faith. The **Indicative** mood notes our absolute status, you cannot lose this. This refers to the past reality of everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. You have been raised up to new life in Christ. Here again is the great problem with all those who think that a born again believer can lose his/her salvation. God has buried you with Christ and has raised you up with Christ. God is not going to undo this resurrection! These people (who believe in loss of Salvation) are more impressed with sin than they are with all that God has done for and to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior. God would have to undo the 34 things He does at salvation. What kind of God do they have?

What is the significance of being raised up with Christ?

Foremost, this refers to the revivification by Christ of everyone who believes in Him as Savior. One of the reasons few believers even understand this concept is that they do not understand that we are born into this world physically alive but spiritually dead. So when one believes in Jesus Christ as Savior one of the 34 things that happens is that you are 'revived.' No, you will not 'feel' being raised up with Christ. That is you are restored to spiritual life. You are raised to new life in Christ. We must understand Spiritual death: this is the inability to have fellowship with God. We are born spiritually dead by imputation of Adam's Original Sin to us resulting in our spiritual death. This is a blessing from God. Before we can be revived we must have lost our original creation in Adam. In Adam all die (1 Cor. 15:22) that is, we all die spiritually, but as 15:22 adds **in Christ all will be made alive**, that is spiritually alive.

1. In Adam we are born spiritually dead.

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2. Being born spiritually dead we commit personal sins
3. The wages of sin (personal sins) is death—spiritual death
4. Since we are born spiritually dead we cannot pay the debt.
5. Out of love, grace and mercy, Jesus Christ paid this debt for the entire human race.
6. The payment of this debt does not result in salvation. For salvation we must have the perfect righteousness of God. When we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior the Holiness of God (His perfect Righteousness and absolute Justice) considers us dead in Christ. This is our dying in Christ.
7. Then we are declared by the Holiness of God to be ‘revived’ back to spiritual life in being raised up with Christ.
8. Therefore, the life we now live is no longer our lives but Christ, who lives in us (Gal. 2:20). And when we consider all that Jesus Christ has done for us, namely that Christ died for us, we are so controlled by that magnitude of love that we now have the desire so live our lives for Him. (2 Cor. 5:14-15)

Again, the question: What is the significance of being raised up with Christ?

1. This refers to the revivification by Christ of everyone who believes in Him as Savior.
2. This is a ‘past experience’ that happened to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior.

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3. This is by grace and therefore through faith of the believer. Col. 2:12
4. By virtue of being raised with Christ we now have a new relationship with Him. Think about this, when you believed in Jesus Christ as Savior, one of the 34 things you received was a sharing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. On the negative side, this is not an experiential resurrection. We must understand this to clearly understand two seemingly contradictory statements.
 - a. The phrase in **Col. 2:10 in Him you have been made complete and **Our having died with Christ and raised with Christ.****
 - b. The ‘apparent’ contradiction of our advancing to spiritual maturity during our lives here on earth in Col. 1:22-23 where in verse 22 Jesus Christ desires to present us experientially holy at the Judgment Seat of Christ therefore the ‘if’ clause of verse 23, which states our responsibility to continue to live in the Holy Spirit by faith.
6. This is passing from spiritual death to spiritual life in Jesus Christ.

**3:1 Therefore, since you have been raised up
with Christ,**

Question: Who raised us up with Christ?

Col. 2:12 having been buried with Him *died with Christ* in baptism,
being identified with Christ in His Resurrection.

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in which you were also raised up with Him through faith our non-meritorious part in salvation in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are declared to have raised Jesus Christ and therefore to raise us up together with Christ at the point of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Therefore since you have been raised up with Christ, (with the definite article) **with The Christ** (and is in the locative case and should be) **with or even in the Christ**

**Therefore, since you have been raised up in
the Christ.**

Before we come to the apodosis or the ‘so what’ clause, lets take a look at what being raised up in the Christ does for us. It amazes me how many Christians are so anxious to take away someone’s salvation because of some sin or even pattern of sin. They like to talk about the cross but to these people sin is more powerful than the cross work of Jesus Christ. Please understand that the second anyone believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, God the Holy Spirit ‘baptizes’ them in Christ (Baptism of the Holy Spirit). This cannot be undone! Once God the Holy Spirit baptizes or places someone in the Christ, that is it, no one can undo what God has done. Sin cannot undo the work of Christ on the Cross. There are a lot of things that happen when a believer lives a carnal or sinful life, but loss of Salvation is not one of them.

Then as a result of our being raised up in the Christ, we are positioned in Christ or ‘positional sanctification.” And again, you cannot lose being sanctified or set apart in Christ.

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We now come to the ‘so what’. So what that we have been raised up with The Christ? What difference does this make to me? First of all, it sets you apart for all eternity to spend eternity with Jesus Christ and God the Father. But it should also make a big difference in how we live. Recently, in the news there has been great celebration over the birth of a new Prince in England, given an historical name, Louis. Well, there are just things as one grows up in English royalty that they can and cannot do, simply because of the family they are born into. Well, people, if you have been born again, (1 Peter 1:23) (born from above—John 3:3) you are born into the Royal Family of God. You are in the family of The Christ. And yes, this should make a big difference in how we live.

**Therefore, since you have been raised up in
The Christ, keep seeking the things above,**

This is the first imperative of direction of our lives, of our thinking. **To seek** is the Present Active Imperative of the Greek verb meaning to seek after, to strive for, to pursue something daily in your life. It means to decide that something is worth searching for, pursuing after. When a young person enters college, they set their sights on a degree. We should set our sights on receiving rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Present Tense – here is your life — keep on seeking, keep on pursuing, keep on endeavoring to obtain, no matter the cost. Keep on desiring this all through your life.

The Active voice: The believer himself/herself, must produce the action of the verb. He/she does this by walking, living in the Holy Spirit who will guide them to a local church where the Word of God is taught verse by verse, doctrine by doctrine, building on what you have learned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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Oh, the Imperative Mood. Here it gets tough. The imperative mood is the farthest removed from reality. This means not many believers do this their whole life. Some never even get started. Some seek it for a while, only a few seek it their whole life. The imperative mood is used to convey the desire of God for each one of us.

You make time to do what you want to do:

If you want to see a TV show, you will.

If you want to be in Bible study, you will.

If you want to take time out to relax, you will.

If you want to take time out to pray, you will.

If you want to talk to someone about something important to you, you will.

If you want to give the gospel...you will.

**Therefore, since you have been raised up in
The Christ, keep seeking, keep desiring, keep
making the decisions to obtain the things
above,**

This adverb “above” refers to heaven and specifically the third heaven, where the Throne of God is. We are introduced to this glorious place in the first book given to us, in Job 1.

Question: How are we supposed to seek things that we cannot see? We have not physically been in heaven, so how can we seek things above.

1. This is our place of birth **John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again.**

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(Wrong, the Greek says) *born from above* he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

2. Therefore, this is where our citizenship is: **Phil. 3:20 for our citizenship is in heaven.**
3. Now we learn this is where our Savior physically sits right now: at that right hand of God in heaven.
4. So, how are we to know what to seek for? We are positionally in Christ but we are alive here on earth, so how are we to know what to seek and for that matter, how to seek it?
5. First of all, we do know one thing for sure. Whatever it is, it is not related to this earth for this earth shall pass away. So we can rest about pursuing wealth, or things of this earth. We can rest about pursuing happiness from this earth. We have a very dear and rich statement in our nations Declaration of Independence: ‘*pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.*’ It is up to each individual to decide what their happiness is and how to obtain it and then pursue it. For us in Christ, that happiness is not found on this earth.
6. We will come back to defining what we are to pursue but we know that
 - (1) It is related to Jesus Christ and we know
 - (2) that it is related to heaven—so we can include
 - (3) seeking rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ for these will last for all eternity. We know that it directly involves and is dependent upon our

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- (4) Filling of the Holy Spirit by grace through faith and
- (5) growth in the Knowledge of the Word of God for the Word of God abides forever, and
- (6) it includes Spiritual Love, for Spiritual Love is loving as Jesus Christ loves
- (7) It includes all things spiritual and eternal; and finally
- (8) Glorifying Jesus Christ for we will do that for all eternity.

Why should we seek things above? Because this is **Where Christ is**.

Have you ever *truly* loved someone? You will know if it is true, because when it is true, you desire to be with them! you pursue them, you seek them—to be with them.

Well, Jesus Christ is no longer here on earth.

where Christ is Present Active Indicative of the verb denoting absolute status of Jesus Christ---

He is **seated** - actually this is a Present Active Participle and should be translated **sitting at the right hand of God**, referring to God the Father

**Therefore, since you have been raised up in
The Christ, keep seeking, keep desiring, keep
making the decisions to obtain the things
above, where Christ is, sitting at the right
hand of God the Father**

This should bring to mind the great arrogant debate among the disciples of the Lord, James and John as to which one would sit on His right hand

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in the Kingdom. Mark 10:35-40 Sitting on the right side is the place of honor and the place of power. Satan lusts after being able to sit at the right hand of God.

People, there are so many important things about Jesus Christ we need to know. That He is God; as God became man at the incarnation, lived a perfect life—sinless therefore qualified to go to the cross. His Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension and Session.

Where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God

1. This is where your home is therefore should be where your heart dwells upon.
2. This introduces an amazing reality of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Being seated at the right hand of God, He has the place and power to provide us with everything spiritual we need in this life. As in **Col. 2:19 from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God**

As in **John 14:3 I go to prepare a place for you...**and when He comes, He comes to take us back with Him that we may be together with Him for all eternity.

As in **John 17:24 “Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**

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3. So that when we appeal to Jesus Christ through His Spirit, we have access to the Throne of God. His being seated at the right hand of God sets up a two way blessing: Him to us, and us to Him.

His Ascension and Session are crucial to Col. 3:1

1. The Resurrected body of Jesus Christ is capable of ‘space travel.’ The humanity of Jesus Christ in His Resurrection Body traveled through two heavens to the third heaven to get into the presence of the Father (John 21:17). Think about this, Jesus Christ traveled billions and billions of light years instantly to arrive at the Father’s heavenly throne.
2. Once He arrived there He was seated on the right hand side of the Father. **Psa. 110:1 The Lord** (God the Father) **says to my Lord:** (the Messiah, Jesus Christ) **“Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”** God the Father said these words to the humanity of Jesus Christ, not His Deity. Deity cannot sit. This is fulfilled in **Rom. 8:34 who is the one who condemns?** People, don’t let anyone deceive you, all unbelievers stand condemned. **Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised,** (resurrection) **who is at the right hand of God,** (Session of Jesus Christ) who also intercedes for us. Wow, this is one of the things He is doing for us daily. Give thanks!
3. We are told exactly where He is in the above from **Eph. 1:20 which He God** (the Father) **brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand** (Ascension and Session) **in the heavenly places,**

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4. What was the task that Jesus Christ had to perform before He could sit down at the right hand of God? **Heb. 1:3** **And He is** (always has been and always will be) **the radiance of His** (God the Father) **glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things** (science thinks it is gravity, but we know better!) **by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, (crosswork) **He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty** (God the Father) **on high, (*above, heavenly places*).** Also **Heb. 10:12** **but He, Jesus Christ having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, (Spiritual death) SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,****
5. The Ascension and Session of Jesus Christ is the basis for His victory in the Angelic Conflict **Heb. 1:13** **But to which of the angels has He ever said, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”?** God said this to no angel, but He said it to a member of the human race, Jesus the Christ, His Son.

1 Peter 3:22 **who (Jesus Christ) is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.**

Nutshell look at the order of events of the Angelic Conflict:

1. Angels were created before man in the pre-historic world.
2. Many angels followed Satan in his revolt against Jesus Christ.

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3. All the angels who followed Satan are known as ‘fallen angels’ or ‘demons’ and along with Satan were cast into the deep.
4. Jesus Christ then restored the Earth to the present Earth and created the creature mankind, who fell in following Satan and were now in Satan’s kingdom of darkness under condemnation.
5. Jesus Christ, as God, came in the form of humanity and died on the cross taking away the sin barrier. Now mankind, both believers and unbelievers, are in the Angelic Conflict.
6. After the removing of the sin barrier Jesus Christ defeated the angels in the Angelic Conflict. This is what we learned in **Col. 2:15** **When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.**
7. Then came the Resurrection.
8. In His Resurrected body Jesus Christ went into Tartarus (compartment where the fallen angels of Gen. 6 were imprisoned until the Great White Throne Judgment). Jesus Christ went there to deliver to these fallen angels the news that He, Jesus Christ had been victorious over their chief, Lucifer, now Satan in His Victorious Proclamation.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died (Spiritual death) for sins once for all, *the just* (Jesus Christ) for *the unjust*, (all members of the human race) so that He might bring us to God, having

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**been put to death in the flesh, but made alive
in the spirit;**

**19 in which (*by means of which –the Holy Spirit*)
also He went and made proclamation to the
spirits *now* in prison,**

**20 who once (Gen. 6) were disobedient, when
the patience of God kept waiting in the days of
Noah, during the construction of the ark, in
which a few, that is, eight persons, were
brought safely through *the* water.**

9. We—all believers in Jesus Christ in the Church Age are not told to fight the devil but to stand firm and put on the whole armor of God. Eph. 6:10-17.
10. The 2nd Advent at the end of the Tribulation will conclude with God the Father making all the enemies of Jesus Christ the footstool of Jesus Christ.

**Dan. 7:13-14 “I kept looking in the night
visions, And behold, with the clouds of
heaven One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He (Jesus Christ) came up to the Ancient
of Days (God the Father) And was presented
before Him.**

**14 “And to Him was given dominion, Glory
and a kingdom, (the Millennial Kingdom) That all**

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the peoples, nations and *men of every* language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

Also

Rev. 20:1-3 Then I (John) saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

See also Zech. 13:2 and Col. 2:15.

11. At the end of the Millennium at the Great White Throne Judgment, Satan and all the demons will be cast into the eternal lake of fire and all members of the human race who chose not to believe in Jesus Christ will also be cast with all the fallen angels. Rev. 20.

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The Ascension and Session of Jesus Christ was the beginning of a new dispensation with a New Priesthood---that is Jesus Christ is now the New High Priest.

Heb. 8:1 Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Now as a High Priest Jesus Christ needs His own Priesthood, which is being made up of believers in the Church Age.

Eph. 1:20 which He (God the Father) brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion (angelic realm), and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

22 And He (God the Father) put all things in subjection under His (Jesus Christ) feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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And because of this, He gave to every believer the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit and all these things causes every believer in the church age to be in the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict because every believer is directly involved in the conflict. This has never been the case in the previous dispensations.

The Ascension and Session of Jesus Christ completed the Glorification of the humanity of Jesus Christ. **Phil. 2:9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,** See also Acts 2:33, and 5:31; and 1 Pet. 3:22.

Col. 3:1 Therefore since you have been raised up in The Christ, keep seeking, keep desiring, keep making the decisions to obtain the things above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God the Father