

## We are to live Alive to Christ

**Colossians 3:1** Therefore since you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God (ascension & session of Jesus Christ).

**Colossians 3:2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

**Colossians 3:3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

### *Picking up from last week*

1. Just as the darkened world refuses to see the light and life of Jesus Christ, so it is with every believer in Jesus Christ. The world cannot see or even begin to understand the spiritual life of the believer:

**John 15:18** “Since the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated you.*”

This explains why the Modern Church and political leaders do not understand the foundation of this nation nor the fundamental Biblical principles upon which it was built.

2. Note the two English prepositions in Colossians 3:3:  
**with** Christ...**in** God
3. Ephesians 3:17-19

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**Ephesians 3:17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

**Ephesians 3:18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

**Ephesians 3:19** and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

4. There are several passages that explain how we are dead in Christ, risen in Christ. We do not live according to our first birth, but we live according to our second birth in Christ, which the world cannot understand.

**Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ; (Colossians 2:20 & 3:2—*for you have died*) and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, (the humanity of Jesus Christ lived by faith in the Holy Spirit and we are to follow how He lived) **who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**

**1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, (in our first birth we are born physically alive but spiritually dead) **so also in Christ all will be**

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**made alive.** (Spiritually alive, at the point of faith in Jesus Christ)

**2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;**

**2 Corinthians 5:15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.**

**2 Corinthians 5:16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, (by faith in Christ) *he is a new creature*; (a new spiritual creation) **the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.****

5. What does it mean our lives are hidden? Hidden from whom? And hidden by whom? And why are our lives hidden? Our lives in Christ are hidden from the world because they are concealed by God and not able to be seen by the world because our lives are spiritual and the world is material. The world sees and understands only the material and even then they come to foolish conclusions. As we will see, don't look nor expect rewards in time.

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Rewards will be recognized and given after the Rapture at the Judgment Seat of Christ. 'You are not home yet' so don't be disappointed in this world. Don't be disappointed because it just seems like no one notices! Just keep on continuing to set your thinking on things above and performing 'good' works in the power of the Holy Spirit and abide in hope at the Judgement Seat of Christ. Just keep on remembering: 'you are not home yet.

6. One final point, even though we are dead to the world and even though our citizenship is in heaven, we still possess the body into which we were physically born. So, Question: How can we keep our mind set on things above? This is why God and Jesus Christ have supplied us with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and grace provision for the Filling of the Holy Spirit. It is God the Holy Spirit who will enable us to keep our minds set on things above.

**1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (Being in Christ we are dead to the world and our lives are not our own but they belong to Jesus Christ.)**

**1 Corinthians 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**

We now move to Colossians 3:4

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**Colossians 3:4 Christ who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

**When** introduction to when our lives will be ‘revealed’ from being hidden in Christ, **When**

**is revealed** this is the grace voice in the Greek Culminative Aorist tense. It points to incorporating all that is involved when we, the bride, comes to earth with the Groom. Passive voice, we receive having our lives come from being hidden to being revealed as the bride of Christ. This manifestation will take place at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Jesus Christ. This manifestation does not occur when the Church is Raptured from the earth. The Rapture is when the Groom, Jesus Christ picks up His bride. The Holy Spirit ‘snatches’ all believers on earth and takes us up to meet the groom in the air. This is the Rapture. Then the Bride is made ready for the wedding, first at the Judgment Seat of Christ, then her preparation in glorious Righteous clothing. The Wedding will take place in heaven, hidden from the earth. During this time on earth will be the period of the Tribulation, but in heaven there will be jubilation. Then the Groom will bring His bride for the marriage supper of the Lamb in Jerusalem, where inside this big banquet hall will be the friends of the groom and outside will be the friends of the bride, waiting, then all will go into the banquet hall and everyone lives happily ever after because the millennium is followed by eternity. The indicative mood expresses the reality of the Presentation of the Groom, Jesus Christ and His Bride – Church Age Believers. The Greek verb means to be revealed, to be made visible — on earth.

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**you with Him will be revealed in Glory** now theologically this is a wonderful grace reality. It does not matter what kind of life you lived, in sin, or in the Holy Spirit, you will be part of this grand presentation on earth in Jerusalem.

“you will be revealed by God together with Jesus Christ and you together with Jesus Christ will be glorious” (John Callow: A Semantic Structure Analysis of Colssians)

We will become manifest as the Bride, to the Groom Jesus Christ. The groom is called Christ, our life—like a married couple. The future tense of being revealed or manifest is an interesting future tense. It is both a predicative future for an event that is certain plus a gnomic future for a statement of absolute fact. And the passive voice every believer of the Church Age, from the day of Pentecost to the Rapture, receives manifestation as the bride of Christ.

Note the flow of these first 4 verses:

verses 1-2 commands based on the fact that we are alive with Christ so we should seek the things above and set our minds on things above, not on earth.

Then verse 3 the reality that since we are in Christ and Christ is hidden to the world out of their own rejection we are also hidden to the world. But, in verse 4 we will be revealed with Christ in glory.

OK, we have studied things we can anticipate: The Rapture and the Judgement Seat of Christ. Now lets take a look at this glorious manifestation – open presentation of the Groom and His Bride. Every believer of the Church Age will be there in glorious presentation.

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*Doctrine of the Manifestation or Presentation of the Bride*

(remember this is at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent not the Rapture)

1. The body of Christ – that will become the bride of Christ, is being formed on earth during the Church Age. Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 5:23; Col. 1:18 & 24 & 2:19. This time, the Church Age, is the formation of the Bride of Christ. We must understand something opposed to Mohamad and Islam. No one in their right mind marries a child. The body of the young girl must mature to a young lady. The body of Christ is made up of everyone who believes in Him as Savior throughout all the Church Age; from the day of Pentecost to the Rapture, no exceptions, regardless of what kind of life that believer may have lived on earth. They made the one and only decision that qualifies them for being in this glorious body of the bride of Christ. But there is no marriage until the body comes of age.
2. When the Body of Christ is completed, ready to be the Bride of Christ, the Rapture takes place. 1 Thess. 4:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Col. 2:15 with Rev. 19:6-9.
3. 1 Thessalonians 3:13 records the event described in Colossians 3:4, the revealing of Jesus Christ and the revealing of the Church as the Bride of Christ. **“so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”** This refers to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent where Jesus Christ will come with the Church, now His Bride.
4. The first half of 1 Thessalonians 3:13 describes what is going on in heaven — the preparation of the Bride for the marriage in heaven and preparing the Bride to be presented here on earth.

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5. During the Tribulation on earth the bride is being prepared in heaven. This will involve several stages of preparation (ladies always take valuable time getting ready for their marriage). **The first step** is by entering into ultimate sanctification. The body of Christ enters into ‘positional sanctification,’ that is position in Christ. The Bride of Christ enters into Ultimate Sanctification which includes every believer of the Church Age receiving a Resurrected Body, just like Jesus Christ but maintaining your own countenance. (1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:1-2)

**The second step:** The bride is prepared by being cleansed of all human good, described in the first part of 1 Thess. 3:13. There will be no human good in the bride...This is what the ‘white’ symbolizes: purity. 1 Cor. 3:12 & 15. The bride no longer possesses an Inherited Sin Nature.

6. Rev. 19:6-8 describes the Preparation of the Bride:

**Revelation 19:6 Then I heard** (this is one of the primary ways we learn the gold silver and precious stones of the Word of God, we listen, pay attention and grow) **something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah!** (Praise the Lord) **For the Lord our God,** (humanity & Deity in one person) **the Almighty,** (all powerful—over Satan and all his angelic forces) **reigns.** (better translated) **For the Lord our God, all**



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**powerful has become King** (Jesus Christ is crowned King by God the Father and will be King forever).

**Revelation 19:7 “Let us rejoice and be glad (overjoyed) and give the glory to Him, for (or because) the marriage of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) has come and His bride (the Church, the body of Christ, now His bride) has made herself ready.”**

Verse 8 speaks of something that is so important to a lady when she marries...her dress.

**Revelation 19:8 It was given** (how beautiful this is, this is the grace voice – the passive voice where the bride receives this preparation) **to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean;** (absence of all human good; This refers to righteousness and ultimate sanctification) **for the fine linen** (this is linen from Egypt which was the finest linen in the world at this time) **is the righteous acts** (no acts here, this is the justification) **of the saints.**

7. Wedding Supper of the Lamb – the wedding takes place in heaven, while the Tribulation is going on here on earth. Then the coronation of the Groom—crowned King (Rev. 19:6). Now He reveals His

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bride (who has been hidden during all the Church Age) Matthew 25:1-13 describes the events of the Marriage Supper. Following the analogy of the marriage of the ancient world, the moment the groom picks up the bride, the Rapture, then the wedding takes place in private. Then the wedding supper of the lamb is described in some detail in Rev. 19:9

Invited guests:

**Revelation 19:9 Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed great happiness in those are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ (Friends of the Groom and friends of the Bride. This wedding supper takes place on earth)” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”**

*Four categories involved in this Wedding supper:*

1. The Groom: Jesus Christ
2. The friends of the Groom: All Old Testament saints
3. The Bride: Church Age Believers
4. The friends of the Bride: Tribulation believers who survived the Tribulation, Tribulation saints alive at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Matt. 25:1-13

**Colossians 3:3 For you (all believers) of the Church Age have died and your life is hidden on earth with Christ in God.**

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**Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, (2<sup>nd</sup> Advent) then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. (The Wedding supper)**

Having covered our coming to earth with the Lord, Paul now in verses 5-17 goes back to our lives here on earth as saints, believers in Jesus Christ. The fact that we died with Christ, and are made alive in Christ, we should now set our thinking on things above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. This includes our coming back to earth with Christ, being revealed as the bride of Christ, all these things should have great influence on how we live our lives as believers, here on earth.

**Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.**

**Therefore** this inferential particle is here used as a transitional conjunction to relate the challenge of verses 1-4 to the manner of life we ought to live now while here on earth. Who we are in Christ and all that awaits ahead for us, ought to have great influence on how we live our lives.

The Greek says **Therefore ‘put to death’** this is an Aorist Active Imperative of the Greek verb meaning ‘to put to death’ or to render impotent. The word itself refers to persons whose physical capabilities have failed in certain respect. (Arndt & Gingrich page 537) The verbal form means ‘to put to death’ to deaden or deprive of force and vigor (The Complete Word Study Dictionary; page 1007). “In some medical

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records, the word is used to describe the effects of disease on parts of the body. Other references are to the deadening effects of aging. In a figurative sense this word means to mortify, to treat as dead or to ‘disregard.’” (The Complete Biblical Library, vol. 4 pages 244-245). This Greek word is used three times in the New Testament. It is used twice in reference to Abraham being sexually dead Rom 4:19 and Heb. 11:12. The third is our passage, Colossians 3:5 introducing how we are to live our lives as believers in Jesus Christ. So here it is to be understood as to mortify or render dead members of our earthly bodies ‘as far as sinful desires of the flesh are concerned.’ The Aorist tense is an ‘ingressive Aorist which looks at a process from the start but should continue throughout our lives. The Active voice means that the believer himself must do this. The Imperative tells us this is God’s desire for every believer.

What is not stated here is **how?** How do we as believers render dead the sinful desires of our flesh nature? Be filled with the Holy Spirit **Galatians 5:16 But I say walk by the Spirit** (we do this by walking by faith in the Holy Spirit) **and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.** So we render dead the sinful desires of our Inherited Sin Nature by faith in the Holy Spirit.

**Colossians 3:5 Therefore render dead** this is part of what happened when we died with Christ (Col. 2:20). We are dead to the world, dead to Satan and dead to the sinful desires of our Inherited Sin Nature.

**Therefore render dead your members** OK, here we learn some human anatomy. You will note *members* is in the plural. In the singular it refers to a specific part of the body. Here it refers to various facets of the body. Most people will relate this to sexual parts of the body. But theologically

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this does not refer to the mind or soul, but to the Inherited Sin Nature. It refers to the essence of the Inherited Sin Nature. This is further dealt with in **Rom. 6:6 knowing this**, here is the secret to living a life pleasing to God...knowing **that our old self** that is our Inherited Sin Nature **was crucified with Him**, died with Christ **in order that our body of sin Inherited Sin Nature might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;**

So, our Inherited Sin Nature was done away with when we died with Christ, we died to our Inherited Sin Nature. Don't resurrect what is dead.

**Colossians 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh (Inherited Sin Nature) by the circumcision of Christ;** (The Inherited Sin Nature had died with Christ and has been circumcised by Christ.)

**Colossians 3:5 Therefore render dead your members of your earthly body** (The reference to 'earthly' goes back to Colossians 3:2 set your mind on the things above not on the things that are on earth), **as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.**

**Therefore render dead your members of your earthly body** namely in Col. 2:20-23 Paul mentions one of the trends of the Inherited Sin Nature: asceticism. But here (Colossians 3:5) he refers to the trend of

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lasciviousness. **Immorality** refers to illicit sexual activity of any kind, illicit sex between a man and woman who are not married to each other. This included immorality as part of the pagan religion.

Our society has fallen to where sex between a man and woman who are not married is acceptable, but to God this is sin. This word includes all forms of sexual immorality: homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, adultery, etc.

**Impurity** This Greek word is somewhat all inclusive of indecency, or impurity, including filthiness, lewdness, incontinence (which Hitler was susceptible). This includes any unnatural pollution, whether acted out by oneself as in Gal. 5:19 or with another as in Rom. 1:24. It should be noted here that Jesus Christ included the thoughts of man in this category. **What goes into a man mouth does not make him unclean but what comes out of his mouth** (Matt 15:11). This is what makes him unclean.

**Passion** or depraved passion; this specifically refers to the ‘lust of desire.’ It refers to depraved passion, uncontrollable passion, abnormal sex lust. This is the ‘lust’ but not the overt act, so we will understand it as depraved passion or depraved lust.

**Evil desire** or **evil lust** or **even evil thoughts** We have to come to grips with the word ‘evil’ as used here. To me the most evil thing a person can do is to present a false gospel which does not portray God or Jesus Christ’s work on the cross or all that man has to do is to believe. But this is not the way the word is used here. Here, it refers to that which is bad or wrong according to the plan and design of God. The word is often translated to be ‘sick,’ to be unhealthy as opposed to how God designed

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it. To have the disease of sin, either imputed sin from Adam or personal sins.

**And greed** The basic inclusion in this word is ‘insatiableness’ which includes an insatiable desire for sexual satisfaction or insatiable desire for other things, like money or material things related to the earth. A lust to have more than one needs which certainly characterizes a multitude of Americans including pastors or simply desiring to have more than anyone else. This includes lust of the eyes— “I see, I want” or “I want what I see” “I just got to have it”

**Which amounts to idolatry** or more correctly **which is idolatry** this is not the ordinary relative pronoun. This is a qualitative relative pronoun. It is used to refer to nouns mentioned previously, whether they are people, places, things, animals, or practices as we have it here. It is used after a list of five nouns which are all related to the powerful Inherited Sin Nature, which we all possess. No matter what you may think of those 5 nouns, the source is the same in each of us, our Inherited Sin Nature. And for this reason it must be rendered impotent or dead in our lives. Again, this is only possible by the power of the Holy Spirit when He is allowed to rule our souls as in Gal. 5:16.

1. Every believer continues to possess the Inherited Sin Nature after salvation. 1 John 1:8 and 1 Cor. 3:1
2. The Inherited Sin Nature can be rendered impotent or dead when the believer is under the power of the Holy Spirit. This is by faith in the Holy Spirit.
3. The Inherited Sin Nature frustrates bona fide production in the Christian life, that which is considered ‘good’ before God. But

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remember the Inherited Sin Nature also produces ‘human good’ which is considered ‘bad’ by Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

4. The Inherited Sin Nature has different nomenclature in the Word of God:  
*flesh* as in Gal. 5:16;  
*the old self or old man* Eph. 4:22;  
*carnal* Rom. 7:14; 1 Cor. 3:1-3;  
*sin in the singular* Rom. 5:12; 1 John 1:8;  
*heart* in some cases the word is used for the Inherited Sin Nature as in Matt. 15:19;  
*members* is the word in our study Col. 3:5.
5. The Inherited Sin Nature has essence as revealed in Colossians:  
Area of strength as in Col 2:20-23 and  
Area of weakness as presented here in Col. 3:5.
6. The believer’s solution to the power of the Inherited Sin Nature is the power of Holy Spirit as in Gal. 5:16.
7. The Inherited Sin Nature is not found in the Resurrected body of the believer. So, as far as heaven is concern, there is no Inherited Sin Nature. We do not inherit the sin nature in our resurrected bodies, instead we inherit the purity of Christ.

Song played at the end of the service is “You Are Not Home Yet” sung by Porter Wagoner from YouTube.