



Set Your Mind on Things Above

Colossians 3:1-4

If You Are a Believer

- ➡ (v.1) Paul is describing a **God-centered life** in here. If you are a Christian, you will never argue against this. It is obvious that we should put God as the center of our lives and seek Him first. And we **know** it is good for us...
- ➡ If we all know this, then what is the problem?? Why aren't we **all** doing this **all** the time? (ill: imagine 5 years from now)


What Are You Seeking?



- (v.1) Notice we are risen with Christ—a new life
- (v.2) There is a choice that we need to make in this new life...what are you **seeking/doing**?
- The problem is that most people are **drifting** in life, not making any choices instead of just **responding** to **stimulation** in our daily living.
(ill: hungry, angry, etc.)

A Lightning from the Blue?

- Note: **awareness** is not **awakening** (are you?)
- Many people are aware that they need to align with eternal value, but they won't. They simply **react** to life without much thought.
- It usually takes a “lightning from the blue” experience for the person to change—a “flash” of sight to an **eternal perspective**.
- Did you ever have one of these near death experience? Or suffer a great loss? Did you gain any insight? But what happened afterward?

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- The problem with a “lightning from the blue” experience is that the effect may not **last**—since we did not gain any **understanding**.
 - We need **set our mind** on that truth that we are dead (v.3) and in this new life we have the **power to choose**. (Gal. 5:1; John 8:32; Rom. 8:2)
 - The theology is simple: you have died in Christ. Your circumstance is not your life anymore, they are circumstances, just that—a continuous stream of senses or stimulus. It is not who you are anymore. (ill: asked who you are)

Mediate on These Things



- Essentially the person who **mediates** (sets his mind) on God and eternity, has awakened to the truth that he has the **freedom** to choose (Phil. 4:8-9) instead of being aware of it, without the benefit of a “near death experience.”
- As this person draws closer to God in his daily thoughts, the **space** between stimulus and response will grow in him—he is no longer a eating sleeping robot, but a conscious person seeking first God’s kingdom & His righteousness.

Seek and Think



- So how do we choose God in our daily lives?
- First action is to seek. Seeking is looking, it is about **perspective**. Paul here asks us to have an eternal and God-ward perspective. (Matt. 6:33)
- Seeking is an active thing. (ill: hide and seek)
- Second, Paul asks us to set our mind—to **think**.
- We need to frequently pause and think toward gaining an eternal perspective, before we respond the circumstances around us.

Conclusion

- ▶ Jesus is **sitting** at the right hand of God (v.1)—with His glory (v.4) and power.
- ▶ Instead of just asking God to “fix” all the “what if’s” in our lives, we need to ask God to give us strength and wisdom to choose the right response. (to be more like Jesus)
- ▶ We need to learn to seek God and to think on eternity in order to recognize our freedom.
- ▶ The rest of chapter 3 will not make sense until we come face to face with this truth.