

CONTINUING THE “GREEN LETTERS”

FALL : 2023 - SPRING: 2024

CHAPTER 51, pg. 228-231

01/12/2024

RECKONING IN COLOSSIANS 3

Col 3:1 **If then you were raised with Christ**, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth.

3 **For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Therefore **put to death your members** which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to **put off all these**: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, **since you have put off the old man with his deeds**,

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. (NKJV)

Reckoning is trust and confidence that what God has said is true and acting upon its factuality; it means “to count it to be just as said.”; to put all the facts in order as in accounting; a reckoning means to lay all the evidence that proves a thing to be true where all can see; a reckoning is to consider all the evidence carefully in order to reach a conclusion, action follows

*“If then you were raised with Christ...” God says that this is true!
Reckoning means I accept it as true and act on it! “Raised”, of necessity, requires a death or it does not make sense.*

“Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world...”
(Col 2:20). Christ so identified with us that His death on the cross is counted by God as our death with Him on that same cross. God has removed the old man from our lives by means of His cross. The cross then becomes our liberator from the law, the law of sin and death, sin and the basic religious actions designed to make us righteous before God, the self-effort of the fig-leaf apron of our father, Adam, and my old man. That episode in our lives is over. I must reckon it to be so because that is God’s Word. The resurrection is what gives me eternal life and a new approach to all of living.

“If then you were raised with Christ...” Just as Christ’s crucifixion is my crucifixion and therefore the death of my old man, my identity as a sinner before God, so too the resurrection is my new eternal life with Christ. This is my new life; the old has passed away and all things are becoming and remaining new. **This is what I am to reckon as true because God has said it.** I am on a godly journey to be just like Jesus, the Son of God. All that happens in my life now is designed to make me just like Jesus, the Son of God. I am being deified! Therefore, leaving these earthly principles behind I am to seek things which are above where Christ is seated. I am to change my ambitions, my concerns, my goals and my priorities to match those of the Son of God and His kingdom.

“...seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.” Once we have reckoned that we are dead to the old life and alive unto God, we want to start asking God to open our mind to the kingdom of God and the truth about it. This is consistent with what Jesus told us in Matthew 6:33 to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”.

This is to open our eyes and mind to the reality behind all the shadow illusions acting like they are true reality, such as all the foolish entertainment, power-corrupted politics, bad science, modernist and post-modernist education and propaganda, phony utopianism, arguments over wokeness, for and against, tribalism and etc. or as Paul writes to the Colossians in 1:5, 8 - fornication (pornography, hard and soft), uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Guard yourself against the Hegelian dialectic.

The real world is the gospels! Saturate yourself in the gospels that tell the life and character of our Lord. Really listen to them to see what the Savior was saying and how He was living. Answer the questions Jesus asks in them; retell the parables and accounts He gives; check out the OT references He makes. Practice living as He did, in complete willing submission and dependence on His Father. Believe Him! Trust Him! Love Him like Mary!

The real world is learning how God has influenced nations and history to bring the kingdom of His Beloved Son into the world of lies, deception and power-struggles

The real world is getting the full biblical picture of how the world really is

The real world is genuine prayer all the time

The real world is meditating on the Word of God, letting yourself have no idle time

The real world is evangelism - expanding the knowledge of Christ, the dominion of Christ, the influence of Christ, the love of Christ and the truth of Christ to those who do not know Him

The real world is being in a true loving community of those who have placed faith in Christ

The real world is spending time alone with God to hear His voice, to hear His Word, to know His will

The real world is living out the attributes of God invested in you by the Spirit called the fruit of the Spirit

The real world is abiding in Christ as the one, true reality and letting His words flourish in you

The real world is abundant thanksgiving offered to God in Jesus' name

The real world is loving God, loving your neighbor and loving the fellowship of believers, forgiving as you have been forgiven, showing mercy, practicing humility, being compassionate

“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (read from bottom of page 229 through page 230 middle of the page). To be in Christ is the safest place in the whole cosmos – nothing can touch us there! God placed you in Christ by the Holy Spirit forever! Jesus said nothing can ever take you from His Hand John 10:27-30

“There is a continuity of reckoning that must be followed; no step can be by-passed. Until we know and reckon on the truth of our having died out of the Adamic creation, we cannot exercise intelligent faith in counting that

- 1) We are a new creation in Christ Jesus*
- 2) We are alive to God in Him*
- 3) Our life is hidden with Christ in God” page 230, par. 4*

- 4) We are in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ; partakers of the divine nature; being made into sons of God, equal to the angels; co-inheritors with the First born over all creation, ruling and reigning with Him, sharing His glory*

“When Christ, who is our life, appears (is revealed), then you also will appear with Him in glory.” The purpose of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is not to produce nice, morally upright, good people. That may be a result of the process but the actual work is being done by the Holy Spirit to produce sons of God equal to the angels to rule and reign with Jesus. This has been the goal of God since the creation of Adam.