

Morning Sermon April 4, 2021

“Seeking and Finding Resurrection Life” – Colossians 3:1-4

I. Have you been raised with Christ? –

3 If then you were raised with Christ, ...

The popular Easter / Resurrection Day statement is “He is risen” and the popular reply to that statement is “He is risen indeed!”

Yet, as great as Christ’s rising from the dead is, the question is, “are you risen with Him?” Have you been born again?

Without the New Birth –

1. You cannot see the kingdom of God –

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 (NKJV)

You’ll have ZERO understanding, ZERO comprehension, ZERO appreciation or enjoyment of spiritual things, kingdom things without the new birth –

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

2. Being raised, being born again, are both passive things on our part, God does these things, the New Birth is accomplished by God’s Spirit and being raised with Christ is the same –

Jesus describes the New Birth like this –

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:6–8 (NKJV)

Like the wind, the New Birth you might say is invisible, yet also like the wind it can be both quiet almost indiscernible, or MIGHTY – people are often changed suddenly, dramatically ...

The godly wife / abusive husband account Michael Alexandrov told us on a Wednesday night demonstrates this -

3. **3 If then you were raised with Christ -**

In all cases whether the conversion is fast and sudden or slow and gradual, being risen with Christ means a moral and spiritual change –
2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked (past tense) according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:1–6 (NKJV)

If we are raised, we are sitting in Heavenly places, our citizenship is there – Philippians 3:20!

II. If you have been raised with Christ, seek –

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

1. We are told my Paul to seek –
seek those things which are above

A. We are to seek those things above, in contrast to the things of the earth –

... not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)

The things of earth cannot be our goal, our prize, our great dream, as they are temporary, even corrupt –

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV)

B. Christ tells us –

³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

By “seek first” in context it is clear that Jesus means “kingdom of God things” were to be sought even before necessary food and clothing!

We see something similar in John 6 when Jesus rebuffs those who sought Him for more bread –

²⁶ **Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”**
John 6:26–27 (NKJV)

C. The seeking must be whole-hearted –

¹³ **And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV) see again – Matthew 6:21**

III. Yet, we must not only seek things above, we also must set our hearts on them –

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.**
Colossians 3:2–4 (NKJV)

We must set our minds on things above ---

1. Because the things of earth can distract us from these things, that is why the verse says not on things on the earth.

²² **Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. Matthew 13:22 (NKJV)**

A. We have cares of this world when we don’t think we have enough!

B. And the deceitfulness of riches comes in when we think they are enough! They are deceitful because we think they are solid, when they are in fact fleeting ... Matthew 6:19

2. Not only can earthly things distract us, but our life is “hidden” and your life is hidden with Christ in God

A. Totally hidden from the ungodly – John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 2:14

B. Yet, not extremely visible even to us –

¹² **For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.**
1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)

C. This means are walking (with God) is more by faith than by sight –

⁷ **For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)**

3. Yet, from Scripture we know this life is:

A. Abundant life -

¹⁰ **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10 (NKJV)**

B. Eternal life, and eternal in relation with the Living God –

³ **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)**

C. This life is pleasurable –

¹¹ **You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)**

D. This life is now found in the spiritual and moral, things that are truly good –

¹⁷ **for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17 (NKJV)**

E. However, while it is not eating and drinking it is something we can taste, even now -

⁸ **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)**

F. How this life is experienced now is described here in Colossians 3:5-25 - Tonight’s Sunday Evening Sermon!

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