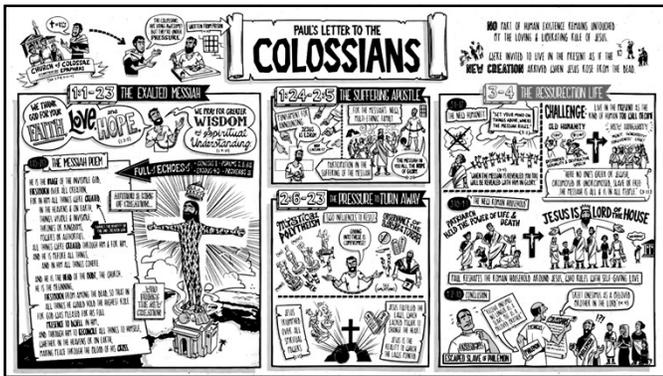


NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST

The Book of Colossians

DEAD, RAISED, AND HIDDEN WITH CHRIST
(2:20-3:4)

1



2

INTRODUCTION

- The threat to the Colossians Christians
- Paul is teaching them not only how to escape that trap, but also a whole new way of thinking about their lives as those in union with Jesus Christ

3

DEAD IN CHRIST (2:20-23)

If with Christ you died

to the *basic principles* of the world,
 why, as if you were still alive in the world,
 do you submit to regulations—
 —according to human precepts and teachings?

- OC Law
- Spiritual forces
- Philosophical principles
- Advanced-spirituality
- Self-imposed standards

4

“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”
 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)
 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom
 in promoting self-made religion and humility
 and severity to the body,
 but they are of *no value*
 in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

5

RAISED WITH CHRIST (3:1-2)

If then you have been **raised with Christ**,
 seek the things that are above,
 where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
 Set *your minds* on things that are above,
 not on things that are on earth.

- Two Spirituality Models
- Material vs. Spiritual
 - Christ-perspective Key

“...desire to have one's thinking and lifestyle
 continually oriented around Christ's kingship
 over all things.” ~Beale

6

HIDDEN WITH CHRIST (3:3-4)

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

When Christ *who is your life* appears,
then you *also* will appear with him in glory.

*Gk. krupto

- something concealed or secret
- Psalm 27:4-5 LXX

"The new age has dawned, and Christians already belong to it....The life of Christians thus becomes part of the 'mystery', the secret plan of God, to be revealed to the world at the end of time....the Christian hopes not merely for the coming of the Lord, but for the full revelation of what he or she already is. ~Wright

7

RESPONSE

- More than a metaphor...“not merely like...really are”
 - We are *Dead* in Christ
 - We are *Raised* in Christ
 - We are *Hidden* in Christ
- This is a identity together, and what we believe about one another
- Therefore, do not be bound by chains of man-made religion (of any sort), but live in the resurrection-life as those who have not yet been fully revealed
- The importance of Scripture and Prayer in shaping us

8

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you.

Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life.

When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you.

9
