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“What Are You Seeking?”

Colossians 3:1-4

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➤ Introduction

- Out with the old . . .
 - In Paul’s epistles, he often addresses issues that had crept into the church
 - Whether another Gospel, works salvation, divisions, strife, gross immorality, etc.
 - All aspects and parts of the old life
 - We see God making a similar address in this epistle
 - They were making and following man-made rules (2:20-23)
 - This because they had been deceived by those pushing some aspects of the old law
 - The instruction is to do away with these things and replace them with Godly things
- In with the new
 - Two key phrases:
 - "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ" — 2:20
 - "If ye then be risen with Christ" — 3:1
 - If we are saved, if we are dead to our affections and lusts, if we have a new, resurrected life in Christ...
 - Then the things in these verses should be true
 - We should be removed from the traditions and doctrines of men

- With that removal, there should be a replacement; A change of heart and focus
- Today, we'll ask this question: "What Are You Seeking"?

I. New Life (v. 1)

A. Risen

1. Praise the Lord, Christ is risen!
2. I Corinthians 15 makes it plain that because of His resurrection, we also shall be raised in newness of life
3. So what a fitting comparison of _____
4. Not only is Christ resurrected
5. We are spiritually resurrected in Christ!
6. Ephesians 2:4-6
7. We also have the promise of a bodily resurrection one day — 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
8. So it is the _____ who are being addressed

B. Evidence

1. If we are risen with Christ, and if we are saved, this verse is addressing us
2. There are things that spring from that new condition!
3. Eternal/Spiritual
 - a) Forgiveness
 - b) Eternal security
 - c) Grace and favor in God
 - d) Things that aren't visible, per se
4. Physical/Observable

- a) Evidence
- b) Fruit
- c) New life
- d) Old habits extinguished
- e) New ones gradually formed
- f) New priorities

5. Here we see the evidence of _____
6. We are commanded to seek the things above!
7. Seek heavenly things
8. The things of _____ and His Word
9. The things that Christ in His heavenly throne are concerned with
10. Matthew 6:19-21
11. The scorning fool might excuse the appetites of the flesh with grace living
12. Biblical grace teaches another lesson — Titus 2:11-12
13. The Pharisee would _____ to what God has said in the practices of his own life so that he might keep up appearances
14. These merely become unbearable burdens to those around him — Luke 11:46.

II. New Desires (v. 2)

A. A change

1. The more we work to change our actions, in His power and might
2. The more our actions become habits and begin to change us

3. The more we do the things we ought to do, the more we WANT to do the things we ought to do

B. Follow _____

1. Seek the things above
2. As Christ said
3. He showed us the contrast between the heavenly and the earthly
4. Things that will last and things that will _____
5. Matthew 6:19-21
6. If we change our actions the Lord will honor that and change our affections
7. Proverbs 16:3
8. Psalm 37:4
9. Give up earthly things, earthly ideas, and earthly instruction

C. Set

1. With this, think of the idea of something that is firmly planted
2. Something permanent or fixed
3. Concrete that has set and is ready to be used
4. Genesis 1:17
5. Matthew 5:14
6. So our affections are to be grounded, planted, set and immoveable with regards to heavenly things

III. New Security (v. 3)

A. We are dead

1. We are dead to that old man that once enslaved us to Satan and sin

2. That old life? In Christ it doesn't exist any more
3. It can't ever again if we are truly saved
4. Even if we return to sin and make the wrong

5. For we know better and we've seen what Christ has to offer

B. _____ walk

1. We must be careful to not be drawn away by our flesh and be on guard
2. Galatians 2:20
3. Romans 6:6-9
4. 1 John 3:9.

C. What a promise

1. We were dead in our trespasses and sins
2. We exchanged that old death for new _____ in Christ
3. He has hidden it away and sealed it never to be revoked
4. Our eternal, everlasting life is _____ with Christ
5. Talk about security!
6. This just reinforces our heavenly citizenship
7. It also reinforces the importance of seeking the things above and setting our affection on those things

D. After all, it will one day be our home...

IV. New Home (v. 4)

A. The promises continue!

1. "When"
2. Praise the Lord for this word!
3. Not "if"; no guesses; no conditions

4. The only condition, Christ has fulfilled
5. He "is our _____"
6. When He shall appear, we go with Him!

B. Exit

1. John 14:1-4
2. 1 John 3:2.
3. What an exit!
4. This is our eternal _____ : Glory!

C. And so we must _____ to self (vv. 5-11)

D. And _____ unto God (vv. 12-25)

E. Storing up

1. Where is our affection?
2. Where is our treasurer?
3. Where is our focus?
4. What are you seeking?