

“If ye then be risen with Christ”

- ⇒ **Text:** Colossians 3:1-4; Romans 6:1-6, Ephesians 1:20; 2:4-6
- ⇒ **Intro:**
 - This Resurrection Sunday, we remember and celebrate the very foundation of all of Christianity, the resurrection of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the single most important event to ever occur on the face of the earth.
 - By His resurrection all who believes on Him are assured of their physical resurrection someday.
 - However, our text tells us that a resurrection has already taken place in the believer’s life.
 - Due to this resurrection Colossians 3:1-2, tells us how the believer is to live.
 - Where his focus and attention should be.
 - Where he is to set his sights.
 - Where the affection of his heart is to rest.
 - Col. 3:1 – “seek those things which are above”
 - Notice the “above” is very specific.
 - Not the first heaven – where the birds and the airplanes fly or where the clouds are.
 - We are not to fix our attention and affections on fowls of air or the achievements of manned flight and so-called science.
 - Not the second heaven – where the stars, moon, planets, galaxies are.
 - We are not to fix our attention and affections on the movement of planets, etc.
 - Astrology
 - Col. 3:1 – “where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”
 - The “above” is the third heaven.
 - The very throne room of God.
 - Col. 3:2 – tells us we as believers are to set our affections there.
 - Affection = Passion, Desire, inclination, propensity.
- ⇒ Colossians 3:1-4, states that one part of the Christian remained dead (v.3) after the other part “arose”.
 - The new man who came up out of the grave with Christ (Eph. 2:6) is already “above”, where Christ “sitteth on the right hand of God” (v. 1).
 - Therefore, our affection should be located in that place, not the place where your dead corpse has been buried (Rom.6:3-6).
- ⇒ However, many a Christian’s affections are set on the things on the earth.
 - Many a Christian gets up each day, resurrects that body of sin that is suppose to be dead.
- ⇒ How can you tell this?
 - Just look at where the average Christian is laying up his treasures.
 - In Chase-Manhattan, CITI Corp, Bank of America.
 - Not the Bank of Heaven.
- ⇒ How can you tell this?
 - Just listen to their conversation.

- **Phil. 3:20**, tells us that the Christian's conversation is suppose to be in heaven.
 - But listen to the average Christian's conversation.
 - It is all about self and what he has here on this earth.
 - Once they leave church on Sunday, the rest of the week they never speak of heavenly things.
 - More interested in the coming baseball season.
 - More interested in what the stock market is doing.
 - More interested in what they are going to have for diner (esp. the Baptist)
- ⇒ How can you tell this?
- By their desire.
 - **Phil. 1:23**, tells us the Christian's desire should "having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better."
 - The average Christian's desire is to stay here on this earth until they hit the lottery.
- ⇒ So, I ask today as Believers, risen with Christ what are some of things above that we should be seeking and setting our affection on?
- ⇒ **1. New Jerusalem is above**
- **Gal. 4:26** – "But Jerusalem which is **above**"
 - Jesus has gone to prepare – John 14:2-3
 - Described – Rev. 21
- ⇒ **2. The Throne of God is above**
- **Rev. 4:1-4**
- ⇒ **3. The Departed Saints are above**
- **1 Thess. 4:14**
 - "even so them also which **sleep** in Jesus will God bring with him."
 - Hopefully, some of them you led to Lord.
 - I am looking forward to seeing Richard Rose,
 - I am looking forward to seeing the countless number of folks who I have given a gospel tract to who got saved and I didn't know it.
- ⇒ **4. Jesus Christ is above**
- **1 Thess. 4:16**
 - "For the **Lord** himself shall descend from **heaven**"
 - I don't know about you but I am looking forward to seeing the one who died for me!
 - Hopefully you will have earned some crowns to cast down at His feet.
 - You will have all of eternity to praise and honor Him and give Him glory!!!
- ⇒ **5. Our Rewards at the Judgment Seat are above**
- **2 Cor. 5:3-10**
 - v. 7 – We are reminded it is suppose to be a walk of faith.
 - I believe those Christians who walk only by sight are going to be empty-handed at the judgment seat of Christ.
 - Those who only believe unless they see are carnal Christians at best.
 - v. 8 – We have confidence based on the word of God when we leave these bodies that we will be with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- v. 9 – In the mean time we are reminded that we are to labor while we wait for either or death or the rapture.
 - v. 10 – No doubt about it we all will appear before the judgment seat of Christ.
 - We will get what we deserve based on what we have done in these bodies.
 - The thing to remember is if you are **not** seeking and setting your affections on the things above then you will probably hit the judgment seat empty handed.
- ⇒ **6. Love one and relatives who died in Christ are above**
- **1 Thess. 5:10**
 - “whether we wake or sleep, we should **live together**”
 - I don’t know about you but I am looking forward to the day when I will be reunited with my loves who have gone on before me.
 - My mother
 - My Aunt Ruth
 - Robin’s brother Jimmy
- ⇒ **7. The Eternal Truth of God’s Word is above**
- **Psalm 119:89**
 - You see the Word of God was settled above.
 - That is why it cannot be changed or broken.
 - My friend do you seek and set your affection on the Word of God each day?
- ⇒ **Conclusion:**
- Yes, I believe that we should celebrate and remember the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Yes, I believe that we should celebrate and remember the triumph of life over death.
 - But we should also remember and celebrate the fact that all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have already experienced a spiritual resurrection.
 - That right at this very moment we are seated in heavenly places.
 - However, does the way you live your life reflect that resurrection that has already taken place?
 - My friend what and where are you seeking?
 - What and where are your affections set on?
 - If you claimed to be saved, remember the scriptures say,
 - “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”