

DEVOTION: Colossians 3:1-4: “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

1. Paul instructed the believers at Colossi, and us, that although they were freed from the ceremonial law by believing on Jesus, it does not mean that they could live as they pleased. It is a strong reminder for us today because some believers think that once they accepted Jesus’ forgiveness that is all there is to being a follower, they are free to live anyhow they chose to live. Accepting the gift of salvation means we are to walk closer to God than those who had the ceremonial laws to follow. Jesus said we should abide in Him, and He will abide in us. (John 15:4-11) Verse one of Colossians chapter three says, “If we are risen with Christ, we should seek the things that are above. Our seeking should not be based on this earthly kingdom, but on the heavenly kingdom. When Jesus was questioned at His trial, He told them that His kingdom was not of this world. (John 18:36) As followers of Jesus Christ we should be heavenly minded, not earthly minded. He who is our best Friend has gone ahead of us to prepare a place for us so that we can be together. (John 14:1-4) Everything we do, should be done with eternity in mind. He tells us in verse two of this chapter that we should set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth. The things of this earth are temporary and will pass away but eternity is forever.

2. We are dead to the things of the earth; therefore, we should not allow the enemy to distract us

and tempt us with things of this world. We belong to another kingdom. The world is not our home, we are mere pilgrims passing through on our way home. Nothing in this world should entice us to turn our focus from following Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our true lives lie in another world: they are in Christ in God. We are dead to the things of the world and renounced this world as our home therefore our affections should be on things above. Oh! I forgot one important thing and that is, how Paul started out the chapter in verse one, the first word in the verse is "IF" If ye be risen with Christ. Everything that follows hinge on this word "if." The narrative is only for those who are risen with Christ. The question now is "what does it mean to be risen with Christ.?" Paul answers this question in Romans 6:1-14. The best way to interpret scriptures is to allow the scriptures to give the interpretations. Our lives are hid in Christ for our security. We should take comfort to know that because of such protection, we should not be afraid of the enemy. Why? He has to go through Jesus to get to us. Hallelujah! This is reassuring. This is our comfort, that our lives are hid with Him and laid up safely with Him.

3. At the second coming of Christ we hope for the perfection of our happiness. Verse four says, When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory. Christ is a believer's life. He is the beginning and end of the Christian's life. He will appear again. When He does, we will appear with Him in glory. Do we look for His return? If so, we should set our affection on His kingdom and not on this present world. Christ is in heaven now, but He is coming back. The Bible tells us that when He returns, we shall appear with Him in glory. It will be His to have His redeemed with Him. Our Head is there, our home is there, our treasure is there, and we hope to be there forever.