

Hebrews 12:3 “Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Hebrews 3:1 “Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.”

Set your Sites on Jesus!
Colossians 3:1-4
Lesson #11
2/25/24

I. We should set our hearts on things above.

A. The reason for our heavenly focus is stated.

****Colossians 3:1** “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”

Ephesians 2:1 “You were dead in your transgressions and sins.”

Colossians 2:13a “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature”

Ephesians 2:3 “All of us also lived among them at one time gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest we were by nature objects (children) of wrath.”

Ephesians 2:4 “But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ^[5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.”

Colossians 2:13b “... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.”

****Colossians 3:1b** “... set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

B. The risen Savior is the highlight of our heavenly focus.

****Colossians 3:1c** “... where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”

Philippians 3:20 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ^[21] who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.”

Psalm 110:1 “The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

Luke 22:69 “But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

Acts 2:32 “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. ^[33] Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”

II. We should set our mind on things above.

A. We should think on heavenly things.

****Colossians 3:2** “Set your minds on things above,

B. We should not allow earthly things to take our focus.

****Colossians 3:2b** “... not on earthly things.”

2 Corinthians 4:18 “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Romans 12:2a “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

C. We should focus on the truth that we are hidden with Christ.

****Colossians 3:3** “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

I Corinthians 2:14 “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to Him, and He cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

John 10:28 “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ^[29] My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

Colossians 3:3c “... hidden with Christ in God.”

John 10:30 “I and My Father are one.”

D. We should focus on the time of Christ’s appearance.

****Colossians 3:4** “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

I Thessalonians 4:16 “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”

I Thessalonians 4:17 “After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever.”

I Thessalonians 4:18 “Therefore encourage each other with these words.”

I Corinthians 15:51 “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – ^[52] In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

How can we stay in heavenly focus?

A. Pray so troubles in life don’t sidetrack you.

Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

B. Confess your sins so you can refocus.

Hebrews 12:1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

C. Set your sites on Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”