

## The Mindset of Future Things

Colossians 3:1-4 - Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

There's a mindset endorsed in this passage. Do you see what it is? It is setting our minds on things above, not on things on earth. The reason is found in verse 1: we have been raised up with Christ, given a new life with God. He is our Lord; that is why we set our minds on things above, that is where Jesus Christ is now.

What would it be like to think like that? Take inventory of your mind. What things do you think about? What kind of thoughts do you think in regard to your schedule, your spouse, your children, your extended family, your job, your household, your dreams, your interests, your walk with God, your church, what you read, what you watch on television, what you do on the internet, what you want? What must change if you are to set your mind on things above? What would be different if your manner of thinking more typically dealt with how these things relate to Christ rather than how they relate to you?

We all have motives. Motives can not be known by observing behavior. One man works for money to spend on his pleasures, another for the honor of giving to ministry (laying up treasure in heaven). Each may work just as diligently. One woman may work to keep her home beautiful because she wants to please God by working hard; another may work just as hard because she longs to hear others tell her how amazing she is. One father may spend time with his son in fear of rebellion in the teen years, another with the purpose of showing love and to speak of the things God in their house, as they walk by the way and as they repair a car together.

The Christ-oriented, future-oriented mindset of this text necessitates a specific set of motives. No present recognition or return on your investments of time and effort are sought. Rather you have died and your true life is hidden in Christ (as also Galatians 2:20). So the time when you will be understood and known, when your motives become apparent to all, will be when you see the Lord face to face. Your motive is that that moment would go well. Your focus is the glory of Christ, who is your life.

My friend, if you will commit your way to the actions prescribed in Colossians 3:1-4, you will be successful in glorifying God. Keep seeking things above. Set your mind on things above.