

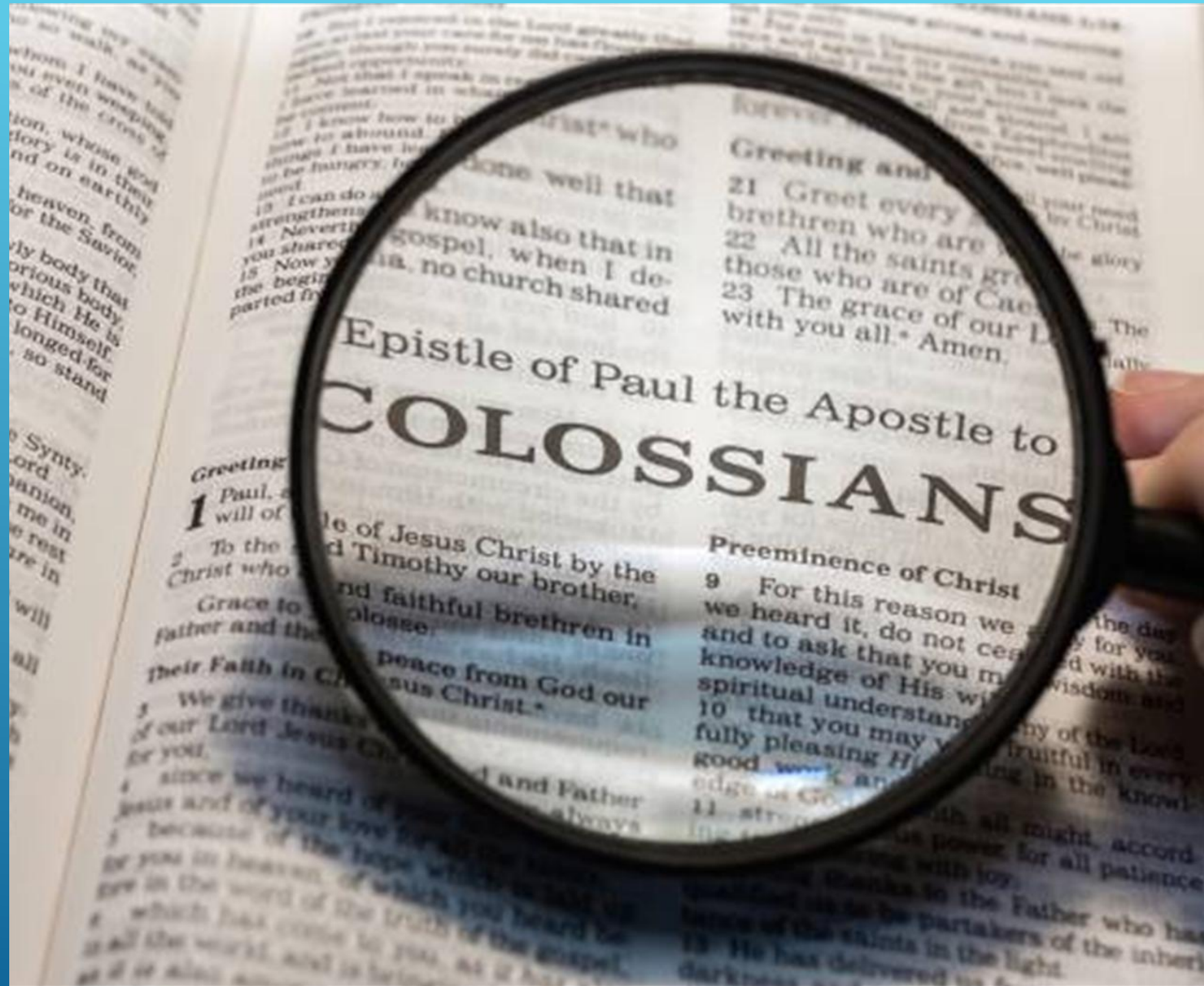
THE POSITION & PROSPECT OF THE BELIEVER: Seeking the Things Above

COLOSSIANS
3: 1 - 4

Message 7 of 12 in series
“Encountering Christ through
Colossians”

CLIC @ FEDERATION UNI BERWICK

5th October 2025





THE LESSON SO FAR..



**WHAT WAS THE
CHALLENGE
THAT THE
CHURCH AT
COLOSSAE WAS
FACING?**

THE LESSON SO FAR..

DOCTRINAL CONFUSION & MORAL CHAOS

**FALSE TEACHERS WERE OFFERING THE BELIEVERS
A MAN-MADE RELIGION
WHICH
THREATENED TO ROB THE CHURCH OF THE
SUPREMACY AND ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST.**


THE LESSON SO FAR..

IN THE FIRST 2 CHAPTERS OF COLOSSIANS,
PAUL HAS BEEN MAKING IT VERY CLEAR THAT
**TRYING TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE
WITHOUT
FIRST DISCOVERING THE SOURCE OF LIFE
IS IMPOSSIBLE.**

THE LESSON SO FAR..

PAUL IS NOT JUST CALLING PEOPLE TO A LIFESTYLE.

**HE IS PRESENTING TO US
THE PERSON OF CHRIST,
THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT,
SO THAT KNOWING THAT IN OUR LIVES,
WE MAY THEN LIVE LIFE
ACCORDING TO THIS LIFESTYLE**



THE LESSON SO FAR..

**OUR FAITH
MUST ALWAYS BE
A FAITH THAT FUNCTIONS.**

**OUR DOCTRINE
MUST INEVITABLY RESULT IN PRACTICAL
DISCIPLESHIP.**

THE HEAD AND THE HEART MUST BE INVOLVED

BUT NOW..

..A TURNING POINT

**PAUL MOVES
FROM DOCTRINE TEACHING
TO
A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE GOSPEL.**

**IT IS A CLASSIC, CONCISE OUTLINE OF PRACTICAL
CHRISTIANITY**

**LOOKING FORWARD
COLOSSIANS 3: 1 – 4:6**

THE CHRISTIAN IN HIS RELATIONSHIP TO..

**CHRIST,
THE LOCAL CHURCH,
THE FAMILY,
HIS DAILY WORK,
THOSE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST**

**“THEREFORE I, THE PRISONER OF THE LORD,
IMPLORE YOU TO
WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE CALLING
WITH WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED”**

***IF WE ARE TO LIVE OUT OUR LIVES PRACTICALLY
AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST,
WE NEED TO TRULY KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN CALLED OF THE
LORD AND HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM***

POINT 1

*OUR POSITION
IN CHRIST*



**Col. 3 v.1 THEREFORE, IF YOU HAVE
BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST, KEEP
SEEKING THE THINGS ABOVE,
WHERE CHRIST IS, SEATED AT THE
RIGHT HAND OF GOD.**

**Col. 3 v.2 SET YOUR MIND ON THE
THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON THE THINGS
THAT ARE ON EARTH**

NASB, 1999

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER



**RAISED WITH
CHRIST**



<https://>

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER #1

“YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST”

=

A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IT MEANS
TO BE A TRUE BELIEVER

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER #1

EPHESIANS 2: 5, 6 (NASB)

*“EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR
TRANSGRESSIONS,
[GOD] MADE US **ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST**
(BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED),
AND
RAISED US UP WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER

**KEEP SEEKING
(PERSISTENCE)**

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER #2

“KEEP SEEKING”

Original word is a present imperative verb which means “a continuous, ongoing effort”

WE ARE CALLED TO
**PERSISTENTLY SEEK AND
TO KEEP ON SEEKING**

THERE ARE MANY STORIES OF HUMAN PERSISTENCE...

- WHEN VERY YOUNG, HIS PARENTS WORRIED HE HAD A LEARNING DISABILITY BECAUSE HE WAS SLOW TO LEARN TO TALK
- DISMISSED FROM SCHOOL IN MUNICH BECAUSE HE APPEARED TO LACK INTEREST IN HIS STUDIES
- APPLIED TO ENTER A POLYTECHNIC IN ZURICH BUT FAILED TO GAIN ADMISSION.
- BECAME A TUTOR FOR THE BOYS IN A BOARDING HOUSE IN ZURICH BUT WAS SOON FIRED.
- CONTINUED TO PERSIST IN HIS ENDEAVOURS AND FINALLY GAINED A TEACHING DIPLOMA & SOME 5 YEARS LATER A PhD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH.



THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER #2

History is full of stories about the persistence of people through seemingly insurmountable odds, discouragement and ridicule. But such persistence is often focused on the rewards and acclaim of man which ultimately cannot hold a flame to “the things that are above”

**WE ARE CALLED TO
PERSISTENTLY SEEK AND TO KEEP ON SEEKING**

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER #2



OUR HEAVENLY SEEKING IS FIRST & FOREMOST TO
BE ACHIEVED THROUGH PRAYER –
AS WE ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK
FOR THE THINGS ABOVE (MATTHEW 7:7; LUKE 18: 1-5)

THIS SEEKING SHOULD PERVADE OUR
CONVERSATIONS, FRIENDSHIPS, STUDIES, WORK,
PLAY.
WHEN IT DOES, IT WILL ENHANCE OUR FULLNESS IN
CHRIST.

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER



**SET YOUR MIND
(CONCENTRATE)**

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER #3

COLOSSAINS 3: 2 (NASB)

“SET YOUR MINDS ON THE THINGS ABOVE,
NOT ON THE THINGS THAT ARE ON EARTH”

THE ACT OF SEEKING DEPENDS ON
WHERE OUR THE MIND IS *SET* ON



THE “THINGS ABOVE” ARE NOT THE PHYSICAL THINGS OF HEAVEN e.g. CHRIST’S LITERAL THRONE.

THEY HAVE TO DO WITH CHRIST’S SOVEREIGN REIGN OVER THE UNIVERSE AS HE FILLS ALL THINGS WITH HIS POWER. THE ‘THINGS ABOVE’ INCLUDE CHRIST’S CHARACTER, PRESENCE & HEAVENLY JOY.

WE ARE MEANT TO SEEK THE ONE WHO DWELLS ABOVE ALL

THE “THINGS ON EARTH” ARE NOT JUST MATERIAL POSSESSIONS,

BUT ALSO

THE IMMATERIAL THINGS OF THE WORLD, e.g.
POSITION, PROMOTION, EARTHLY HONOURS

IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT CHRISTIANS ARE NOT
INVOLVED IN THE WORLD & ANY POSSIBILITY OF
PROMINENCE OR ACHIEVEMENT

**AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE NOT TO SEE EARTHLY
REWARDS AND POSITION AS OUR PRIORITY & SOLE
AMBITION.**

**THE THINGS OF EARTH, ALL OUR POSSESSIONS WILL
FADE AWAY & DECAY.**

**OUR MIND-SET SHOULD BE DOMINATED
BY “THE THINGS ABOVE”**

PAUL IS VERY PRECISE IN HIS COMMAND:

“SET YOUR MINDS *AND* KEEP THEM SET ON WHAT IS ABOVE – THE HIGHER THINGS – NOT ON THE THINGS THAT ARE ON THE EARTH.”

IMPLICIT IN PAUL’S STATEMENT IS THAT WE MUST
CONCENTRATE





**WHAT DO YOU
THINK ABOUT
WHEN YOU ARE
GOING ABOUT
YOUR DAILY
LIFE?**

**WHAT WE SET OUR MINDS ON
DETERMINES OUR SEEKING
AND
THEREFORE
THE DIRECTION OF OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES**

(e.g. Nehemiah 1: 1 -11)



*“God's work
done in God's
way will never
lack God's
supply.”*



J. HUDSON TAYLOR
1832 - 1905

*“I am no longer
anxious about
anything, as I realize
that He is able to
carry out His will for
me. It does not
matter where He
places me, or how.
That is for Him to
consider, not me, for
in the easiest
positions He will give
me grace, and in the
most difficult ones
His grace is
sufficient.”*

**JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR HAD TO LEARN THAT
COURAGE, INITIATIVE, AND PASSION FOR SOULS ARE
NOT ENOUGH¹.**

**HE HAD TO LEARN THROUGH BITTER EXPERIENCE
THAT HE HAD TO SURRENDER THE INITIATIVE, THE
CONTROL COMPLETELY TO CHRIST.**

THAT IS WHAT GOD IS WAITING FOR.

¹ “Fistful of Heroes. Christians at the Forefront of Change” by John Pollock. Christian Focus Publications 2008

LUKE 12: 34, MATTHEW 6:21 (NASB)

**“FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,
THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO”**

JOHN 15:7 (NASB)

**“IF YOU ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU,
ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH, AND IT WILL BE DONE
FOR YOU”**

Col. 3 v.1 (AMPLIFIED)

IF THEN YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST
[TO A NEW LIFE, THUS SHARING HIS RESURRECTION
FROM THE DEAD],
AIM AT AND SEEK [THE RICH ETERNAL TREASURES]
THAT ARE ABOVE,
WHERE CHRIST IS,
SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
THAT
THE SETTING OF OUR MINDS IS
A DELIBERATE ACT OF OUR WILL.**



POINT



THE CHRISTIAN'S PROSPECTS



**Col. 3 v.3 FOR YOU HAVE DIED AND
YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST
IN GOD**

**Col. 3 v.4 WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS OUR
LIFE, IS REVEALED, THEN YOU WILL
ALSO BE REVEALED WITH HIM IN
GLORY.**

NASB, 1999

PAST

FUTURE



THE PROSPECT OF THE
BELIEVER IS BASED ON

THE PAST

AS WELL AS

THE FUTURE

HISTORY OF ALL TRUE
BELIEVERS

THE PAST HISTORY OF A TRUE BELIEVER (i)

“FOR *YOU HAVE DIED* ...”

COLOSSIANS 3: 3a

DO YOU REALISE THAT YOU HAVE ACTUALLY DIED?

IT HAPPENED WHEN YOU WERE BAPTISED THROUGH WATER
INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

ROMANS 6: 1 – 5; 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 13

***“IF ANYONE WISHES TO COME AFTER ME,
HE MUST DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS
AND FOLLOW ME .***

***FOR WHOEVER WISHES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE
IT; BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL
FIND IT.”***

MATTHEW 16: 24 -25 (NASB)

“OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT ALL OF US WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED INTO CHRIST JESUS HAVE BEEN BAPTISED INTO HIS DEATH?

THEREFORE, WE HAVE BEEN BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH, SO THAT AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD THROUGH THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, SO WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

FOR IF WE HAVE BECOME UNITED WITH HIM IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH, CERTAINLY WE SHALL ALSO BE IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION”

ROMANS 6 : 3 – 5 (NASB)

THE PAST HISTORY OF A TRUE BELIEVER (ii)

*“ ...AND YOUR LIFE IS **HIDDEN* IN CHRIST**”*

COLOSSIANS 3: 3

THE IMPLICATION HERE IS THAT OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN
“HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD” (NIV)
AND THEY REMAIN HIDDEN.

OUR SECURITY COMES FROM THE FACT THAT OUR LIVES ARE PART OF
THE “ABOVE” – WE ARE IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IS IN GOD – WE ARE
INSEPERABLE.

* IMPERFECT TENSE IN ORIGINAL

***“YET HE HAS NOW RECONCILED YOU IN HIS FLESHLY BODY
THROUGH DEATH, IN ORDER TO PRESENT YOU BEFORE HIM HOLY
AND BLAMELESS AND BEYOND REPROACH –***

***IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AND
STEADFAST, AND NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE OF THE
GOSPEL THAT YOU HAVE HEARD, WHICH WAS PROCLAIMED IN ALL
CREATION UNDER HEAVEN, AND OF WHICH I, PAUL, WAS MADE A
MINISTER”***

COLOSSIANS 1 : 22 – 23 (NASB)

THE FUTURE HISTORY OF A TRUE BELIEVER (i)

***“WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS OUR LIFE, IS REVEALED, THEN YOU WILL ALSO
BE REVEALED WITH HIM IN GLORY”***

COLOSSIANS 3: 4

**AT PRESENT OUR LIVES ARE
“HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD” (NIV)
BUT WHEN CHRIST IS REVEALED IN HIS GLORIOUS BODY
AT HIS COMING, WE WILL ALSO BE REVEALED BECAUSE WE WILL
HAVE BODIES LIKE HIS.**

***“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN,
FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR,
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST;***

***WHO WILL TRANSFORM THE BODY OF OUR HUMBLE ESTATE INTO
CONFORMITY WITH THE BODY OF HIS GLORY,
BY THE EXERTION OF THE POWER THAT HE HAS EVEN TO SUBJECT ALL
THINGS TO HIMSELF.”***

PHILIPPIANS 3 : 20 – 21 (NASB)

THE FUTURE HISTORY OF A TRUE BELIEVER (ii)

BELOVED,
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL TRANSFORM
OUR FRAIL, DYING BODIES TO BE LIKE HIS GLORIOUS BODY!!

THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST CANNOT NOW UNDERSTAND THIS
FOR IT IS HIDDEN IN CHRIST,
BUT THEN, ON THAT DAY,
IT WILL BE PERFECTLY CLEAR TO ALL!

***“FOR THOSE WHOM HE FOREKNEW, HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO
BECOME CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, SO THAT HE
WOULD BECOME THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN;***

***AND THOSE WHOM HE PREDESTINED, HE ALSO CALLED; AND THOSE
WHOM HE CALLED, HE ALSO JUSTIFIED; AND THOSE WHOM HE
JUSTIFIED, HE ALSO GLORIFIED.***

***WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS?
IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO IS AGAINST US?”***

ROMANS 8 : 29 – 31 (NASB)

CONCLUSION



TRANSFORMATION TAKES TIME



***“IT IS A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT:
FOR IF WE DIED WITH HIM, WE WILL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM;***

***IF WE ENDURE, WE WILL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM;
IF WE DENY HIM, HE WILL ALSO DENY US;***

***IF WE ARE FAITHLESS, HE REMAINS FAITHFUL,
FOR HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF.”***

2 TIMOTHY 2: 11 – 13 (NASB)



*LORD GOD
ALMIGHTY
MAKER OF
HEAVEN &
EARTH;
THE ONE WHO
CREATED THE
STARS &
NUMBERED &
NAMED EACH
ONE*

*WE PRAY THAT OUR
MINDS MAY BE SET ON
THINGS ABOVE,
MAY WE NOT FOCUS ON
THE MATERIAL &
IMMATERIAL THINGS
OF THE WORLD,
MAY WE HOLD THE
SCRIPTURES CLOSE TO
OUR HEARTS, MAY WE
REFLECT ON OUR PAST
HISTORY & MAY WE
REJOICE IN OUR
ANTICIPATION OF OUR
FUTURE IN CHRIST*







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