

## ***Set Your Mind***

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Colossians 3:1-2(1-17) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

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With all that is taking place in our state, country and around the world - for many of us, we have become so preoccupied with what is happening in the physical forgetting that we see has a spiritual reality. Our passage today is inviting us to reengage the spiritual and eternal realities that ought to shift our attention, change our priorities and cause us to re-examine our goals. In this letter Paul is challenging the church to give greater concern to spiritual formation that should inform the whole of our existence.

- **LIFE: Colossians 1:16** (James 1:17; 1John 4:7)

***Reality:* Acknowledge God is the creator of all things and the giver of every good and perfect gift.**

***Mindset:* Our story begins with the love of God and then continues with God's loving provision throughout our lives.**

*Other Supporting Text*

*"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb".  
Psalm 139.13*

*"Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself," Isaiah 44:24*

- **NEW LIFE: Colossians 1:13, 2:13, 3:3, 3:10** (2 Peter 1:3)

**Reality:** God's love has rescued us from darkness and called us from the lifeless places we were born into.

**Mindset:** God has made us alive in His divine nature that we get to grow into.

- If we want to know what our lives should be like, we must look in Christ - that's where our life is hidden. Col. 3:3
- Paradox presented: v.3 "you have died", v.5 "put to death". We live between that which is already done and that which has yet to be fully realized.
- **ETERNAL LIFE: Colossians 3:4**  
**Reality:** Christ reveals Himself to ready us for eternity.  
**Mindset:** The more we come into the knowledge of Christ, the more we come into the knowledge of our true self - chosen, holy and beloved (Col. 3:12)
- Paul's futuristic language could lead us to think solely on that which is to come in the last days (eschatologically) or directly on the coming/return of Christ (apocalyptic) yet there is multi-dimensional reality. This verse can speak to each of these approaching times as well as the present.
- Hidden (krypton) - suggesting security in a place of safety
- Life on earth pales in comparison to the expanse of eternity.

*Other Supporting Text*

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.  
Matthew 6:19-20*

*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.  
Matthew 25:34*

*"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent". John 17:3*

## **How do we Set Our Minds on things Above?**

### **1. Daily dismantle the influences of the old self and the world's systems.**

**Put to death what is earthly in you. (Co. 3:5)**

*"Put to death" (nekroo in Greek) means to decisively stop  
We must stop managing, justifying and allowing sinful nature to influence what we do.*

### **2. We must embrace the identity and quality of life God has given us.**

**Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (Col. 3:12)**

*"Put on" (Greek: enduo) means to sink into a garment, clothe oneself, or be invested with a specific character or power.*

*Both to put off and put on implies continual active choice.*

### **3. Let peace & God's word flow in everything you do.**

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:15-17)*

**Big Idea: Our life is more than what we see. Our lives here on earth pale in comparison to the expanse of our eternal life with God.**

*"Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you... do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil" (Proverbs 4:25-27).*

*"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).*

**How will this change your priorities?**

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**Examine your goals.**

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