

“The Resurrection Mind-Set” Colossians 3:1-17

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:1–17 (NKJV)



I love this picture because I think it demonstrates some of the difficulty involved with setting our minds on things above. It involves MORE than looking at the sky.

Setting your mind on things above requires real Biblical knowledge... Real spiritual understanding ...

I. The resurrection Bible verse – (at least one of them)

³ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1 (NKJV)

1. Today we celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. One of the REASONS we celebrate is we are raised with Him. If we are NOT raised with Christ, we have no real reason to celebrate!

2. What does it mean to be "raised with Christ"?

A. It means we are saved from our sins –

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:4–6 (NKJV)

B. Our sins KILLED us –

²³ For the wages of sin is death, ... Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

C. Our sins caused Christ's death –

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:4–6 (NKJV)

D. But our sins could not keep Him down –

⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV)

3. *Truly being raised means:*

A. *We have been saved from the penalty due sin – Hell’s fires, the second death*

–

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

B. *We have been saved or are being saved from the POWER of sin, temptation and sin’s rule over our life in this world –*

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Romans 6:12 (NKJV)

C. *Eventually we will be saved from the very presence of sin in Heaven –
... where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1 (NKJV)*

II. The set your MIND verse, plus ... –

² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)

1. *Setting your mind on things above is not easy, why? Because we are still on earth and earthy and ungodly THINGS are visible and LOUD, they distract us*

A. *Ungodly voices would take us off track –*

¹ Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, ... Psalm 1:1 A (NKJV)

B. *We are SURROUNDED by ungodly worldviews, presuppositions, lies ...*

Atheism, materialism, evolution as philosophies are all grounded in a presupposition of anti-supernaturalism –

According to these views:

- *There is no God*
- *There is no Heaven or Hell (no invisible spiritual realm)*
- *Without God there is no innate morality, no God-given right and wrong!*
- *Without God the most powerful, sinful human beings make up what they call right and wrong ...*

I was once chatting online with an atheist from Russia named Elizabeth who got into a little debate with me about God, she was telling me she could not believe in anything she could not SEE, HEAR, TOUCH, TASTE or SMELL ...

I asked her, “what about love?” She said, “Love is irrational!” Anything, not tangible to their six senses they count imaginary and so as they tend away from love, so also do they pull away from morality –

¹ The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. Psalm 14:1 (NKJV)

2. But not only are we harassed by ungodliness around us, but our own FLESH still fights with us –

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. Galatians 5:16–17 (NKJV)

A. This is why Paul tells us to put to death ... **“Be killing sin or sin will be killing you! John Owen**

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

B... and put off certain things -

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, Colossians 3:5–9 (NKJV)

Putting off like clothing – The Old Man is sinful Adam ... we inherit from him our depravity –

The Law of Depravity is a lot like gravity, it always pulls us Down, Down, Down!
Down into sin!

Down into death! Down ultimately to Hell!

The resurrection of Christ has the opposite effect: It lifts us up!

- It lifts us up to righteousness, love and all virtue, giving us victory over sin!
 - It lifts us up to LIFE (even eternal life) giving us victory over death!
- It lifts us up to Heaven, delivering us from Hell and all its fiery eternal pains!

Understanding how certain things pull us down will keep us abiding in Christ,
who gives us LIFE and holds us UP! **John 15:5**

III. The resurrection mind-set means a new Identity -
¹⁰ **and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Colossians 3:10-11**

1. *The New Man is Christ –*

*Christ renews us in the image of God is knowledge, righteousness and holiness – (see also **Ephesians 4:24**)*

2. *Here the emphasis is on KNOWLEDGE - **the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10***

3. *God all-knowing and we are created in His image, that means we should be intelligent too, smarter than the animals ...*

¹⁸ **Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns.**
¹⁹ **And I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these?” So he answered me, “These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.”** ²⁰ **Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.**
²¹ **And I said, “What are these coming to do?” So he said, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up *their* horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.” Zechariah 1:18–21 (NKJV)**

A. *Horns here are like horns on big horn sheep, they represent man like an animal, dominating, fighting with brute force ...*

B. *Craftsmen are godly men, they don't depend on brute force but rather on intelligence, skill, creative abilities, they build.*

3. *As the ELECT of God we wear resurrection clothing, we have a resurrected character, a resurrected image –*

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

“To be morose, implacable, inexorable, revengeful, is one of the greatest degeneracies of human nature. To remember injuries, to retain a sense of wrongs, to watch for opportunities for revenge, to hate and to be maliciously perverse, is to represent the image of the devil to the world in its proper colors; he is the great enemy and self-avenger. On the other hand, no grace, no duty, no ornament of the mind is in itself so lovely, so praiseworthy, or so useful to mankind, as are meekness and readiness to forgive. This is that principally, which renders a man a good man, for whom one would even dare to die. And I am sorry to add that this grace or duty is recommended by its rarity.” John Owen

IV. The resurrection mind-set is the best: live it, learn it, teach and sing it –

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:15–17 (NKJV)

1. *Peace –*
2. *Thankfulness*
3. *God's Word / Christ's Word –*
 - A. *Dwelling richly*
 - B. *Wisdom – the ability to see things from God's eternal, Heavenly viewpoint*
 - C. *Teaching, admonishing, singing --- why I love the Hymns ...*
4. *A resurrected purpose, living to honor the Lord Jesus*

What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever ...

Arnold A. Brevick