

Living Alive In Christ - Zanga Schutte, March 2, 2025

Colossians 3:1-2 NIV 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. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Notes: Setting our sights on the realities of heaven means striving to put heaven's priorities into daily practice. Getting our direction from Christ" means seeking guidance and decision-making input directly from Jesus Christ through **prayer, studying scripture**, and relying on the **Holy Spirit** to discern what aligns with God's will in our lives; essentially, allowing Christ to be the **central compass** for our actions and choices. We should be concentrating on the eternal rather than the temporal.

Colossians 3:3-4 NIV ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Notes: True Christian behavior is putting on the new nature by accepting Christ and regarding the earthly nature as dead. We change our moral and ethical behavior by letting Christ live within us so that he can shape us into what he wants us to be.

Galatians 5:16-17 NIV ¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Colossians 3:5-7 NIV ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

Notes: God is saying, put these things to death. Because these things will not only destroy your relationship with Him, but also with your spouse, family and friends...

Romans 8:12-13 NIV

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation---but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Colossians 3:8-10 NIV

⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Notes: When we give our lives to Jesus Christ and put on our new nature, we begin the process of being renewed. We desire to follow the example of Jesus, growing to love him and others more and more. But this doesn't happen immediately. At first it is especially hard to resist the temptation to fall back into the sinful habits we had adopted before conversion. Therefore, we must be very intentional about ridding ourselves of all evil practices and immorality. -We cannot be fully committed to what Christ teaches when we are regularly falling back into our sinful ways. Here Paul or (Kahu) is appealing to the commitment we the believers had made to live for Christ and is urging us to remain true to our confession of faith. We were to rid ourselves of the old life and "put on" the new nature given by Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit. If we have made such a commitment to Christ, are we remaining true to it?

Colossians 3:12-17 NIV ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any

of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Notes: Some encouraging words to help us live for God day by day . . . 1) **Imitate** Christ's compassionate, forgiving attitude 2) let **His love** guide our life 3) let the **peace of Christ** rule in our heart 4) always be **thankful** 5) keep **God's Word** in us at all times 6) **live** as Jesus Christ's representative.

In Closing - 3 things to consider and scripture to back it up:

1. Because Christ died for us, we have been crucified with him.

Romans 6:2-13; 7:4-6 / 2 Corinthians 5:14 / Galatians 2:20; 5:24; 6:14 / Colossians 2:20; 3:3-5
1 Peter 2:24

2. Our old, rebellious nature died with Christ. Romans 6:6; 7:4-6 / Colossians 3:9-10

3. Christ's resurrection guarantees our new life now and eternal life with him later.

Romans 6:4, 11 / Colossians 2:12-13; 3:1, 3

John 10:10 NIV *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

It means that anything this world may either give to us or take away from us doesn't really matter that much, because a life awaits us beyond the present that greatly surpasses this one in every way. It means that for the one who has faith in Jesus, the best is yet to come.