

Heavenly Mindedness and Earthly Good

“General thoughts and notions of heaven and glory do but fluctuate up and down in the mind, and very little influence it unto other duties; but assiduous contemplation will give the mind such distinct apprehensions of heavenly things as shall duly affect it with the glory of them.” John Owen

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1

- The *reason* for heavenly mindedness “*Ascension follows resurrection*” Calvin
 - IF you have been raised with Christ... (THEN) seek the things that are above
 - Union with Jesus Christ in his death and his resurrection is the motivation
 - Communion with our Lord and Savior is the goal of heavenly mindedness

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Colossians 3:2

- The *method* of heavenly mindedness
 - Intensity- *seek, set your minds*: it takes serious spiritual labor to take our minds above earthly things, yet it is a mark of the Christian
 - “*Spiritual things are against the stream, heaven is up the hill.*” Richard Sibbes
- The *breadth* and *duration* of heavenly mindedness
 - Think much on “things that are above” - the innumerable perfections of heaven, chiefly the exalted Christ Himself
 - This is a perpetual duty for the Christian until faith gives way to sight

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

- The *usefulness* of heavenly mindedness
 - Seek *first* the kingdom of heaven, heavenly mindedness reprioritizes all of life
 - Far from being a speculative or esoteric call, those who have done the most good for this world have thought most about the next