



## **Colossians 3:1–4**

3 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. 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.

### **Reflection**

Well here we are, Monday morning. And who knows where this message finds you. On the bus travelling to work. Walking across Martin Place, shaping up for the day ahead. Dropping the children off at school, before grinding it out in peak hour traffic in a desperate attempt to get to work at a reasonable hour. Or perhaps you're in a season of life with a little more time on your hands but with no less pressing concerns; like that doctor's appointment later today and lunch with that friend of yours who isn't doing so well.

How was your weekend? How are you? Perhaps you're feeling light and refreshed after a great weekend. Work's going well, home's going well, church went well; you're feeling good in yourself and are

ready to seize the day. Or perhaps what I've just described couldn't be further from the truth. There are tensions at home, talk of redundancies at work in the lead-up to Christmas, and the project you're working on is behind time and over budget. Truth to tell, you found it hard to even get out of bed this morning. Not happy at home or at work, not happy with your waistline or your finances, and there's that gnawing anxiety just around the edges that will never quite leave you alone.

Wherever you're at this morning, we all need this word from God. Because it's a word that focuses our hearts and minds on the rock on which we stand. Colossians 3:1–3,

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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. 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.

Not all verses in Scripture are equal. Some passages, like today's one, deserve to be memorized, and prayed over, and returned to day after day. Today's passage is one of these, how about we listen to it one more time? Could there a more timely word on a Monday morning for Christians living in our generation?

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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. 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.

There certainly couldn't be a more timely word for the young Colossian church that Paul's writing to. As we've seen over the past week or so in chapter 2, the Colossians are under siege. All sorts of alternative philosophies on life and religion are being whispered into their ears, attractive philosophies, fine sounding arguments from impressive people. And they're being pulled to and fro by their pagan cul-

ture, at risk of regressing into lifestyles and patterns of worship that have no place in the life of Christian. With these words today, Paul is trying to focus their minds and hearts on the rock on which they stand, the rock on which we stand, Jesus Christ. Paul's theology has come to an end, he's reminded the Colossians of who they are dealing with, in some of the highest teaching about Jesus Christ in the Bible. From today on, Paul moves to the implications of worshipping and serving and being united to a Saviour such as this one. Verse 3,

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Paul raises their eyes to glory, far above the

day to day mess (beautiful or otherwise) of human existence. He raises their vision into the heavenly realms, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of his Father in glory. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. But for now, he reigns in glory. And through our faith in his death and resurrection we're united with him, us in him, and he in us, which means that even though it's hard to get our minds around, Paul goes as far to say in Ephesians 2:6 that we're right now seated with Christ in glory. This is where Paul would have the Colossians and us set our hearts. This reality. Not on earthly things, possessions and holidays and careers and people, the latest ideas or trends or fashions – these things are passing away, they're fickle, uncertain, and they wound; they're not the foundation of a secure and

healthy life, let alone eternal life. Instead, says Paul,

set your hearts on things above.

And he continues in similar fashion,

2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 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.

I love these words. Our lives are now hidden with Christ in God. Could they be any more secure? And our future is sure. No matter the cut and thrust of daily life with all its elation and sorrow, underneath it all for a Christian is the wonderful reservoir



of peace found in the assurance of a life spent waiting for Christ, who is our life, to appear when we also with appear with him in glory.

## **Think & Pray**

I'm not sure where this message finds you this today. But I am sure that we all need this word from Colossians; this reminder to raise our vision heavenward, to set our hearts and minds on things above, to Christ who is our life! God is sovereign over your relationships, God is sovereign over your workplace, God is sovereign over your health, God is sovereign over whatever you are worrying about this morning. He will provide for you. Set your mind on him today. If he did not spare his own son, but gave him up for you, then how will he

not also graciously give you all things? If you're feeling despondent, or can't seem to shake off that gnawing anxiety, God in his common grace has blessed us with Christian friends, our church community, Christian counsellors and psychologists who can help us. He's also given us his Holy Spirit and words like these to meditate over and fill our souls with. Matthew 6, words of Jesus,

25 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more

valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these

things will be given to you as well.  
34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Pray today that you and I both might fix our minds on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Pray that we might set our hearts and minds on him, who is our very life, and experience the joy and security in knowing that no matter what life may throw at us, our lives are now hidden with Christ in God.