

Seek Things Above

Colossians 3:1

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

The Colossian Christians were being bombarded by many false teachings. These teachings were meant to have them focus on earthly (human) things. Being in love with earthly “stuff” is alive and well in our world. Sometime ago people were observed wearing tee-shirts that had the statement “the one with most toys wins.” Not long after that, there were shirts saying: “The one with the most toys still dies. Solomon sums it very completely when he states: “Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?” (Eccl. 1:2-3)

We don’t have to fall into that trap because we have been raised with Christ. Now we are new people connected to Christ who is seated at the right hand of God. The right hand is a symbol of power. The right hand of God, therefore, represents universal power (Eph 1:20–21). That Christ is at the right hand of God means that he fills all things (Eph 1:23; 4:10), that is, the entire universe, so that he is present everywhere as Lord over all, governing all things. Likewise Paul called Christ the head over all. (2:10; cf. 2:19) (CC p. 135) That power becomes ours as Baptized and Redeemed Children of God.

The word “seek” is a type of grammar that denotes what the readers are to do regularly (“be seeking”) as an ongoing characteristic of their existence. The word itself denotes diligent seeking and so to find. This has the same thought as Matthew 6:33: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” “Seek” here, too, has the idea seeking continuously. What is to be sought here is the highest thing, that of the kingdom of God and His Righteousness.”

The Greek word translated “set your” is *zeteo*. It is in the present tense, suggesting an ongoing process. “Keep seeking heaven.” The same word is used in the Gospels to describe how “the Son of Man came to seek...what was lost” (Luke 19:10). It’s also used for how a shepherd looks for his lost sheep (Matthew 18:12), a woman searches for a lost coin (Luke 15:8). Since you’ll spend the next lifetime living in Heaven, why not spend this lifetime seeking Heaven, so you can eagerly anticipate and prepare for it?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for bringing me into your Kingdom. Help me to constantly focus on heaven, my eternal home. Amen