

RISEN WITH CHRIST

Text: Colossians 3:1-4:

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the Right Hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in Glory.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important fact of Christianity — the miracle of miracles — the cornerstone of Divine revelation, and the unassailable foundation of the Gospel and of our Faith. If Christ is not risen, your faith is vain, and ye are yet in your sins.



1 Corinthians 15:13-14:

13 But if there be no Resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not only the hope of the saved, but also of those who are still lost, as a pledge of our future Resurrection and full Salvation. It is also the Type of, and Foundation, for Spiritual Life.

Five particulars are specified here with respect to our relation to Christ's Resurrection.

We have died with Christ.
Our life is hidden with Christ.
Christ is our life.
We shall be glorified with Christ.
We are risen with Christ

Colossians 3:3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Our spiritual life is not the old life repaired, reformed, or corrected. Rather, it is an entirely new life, born from above, wherein we receive a new spirit and a new heart.

Just as Adam stood in Eden in the morning of his innocence, and his body contained the substance of Eve from which she was taken out of him, so we come out of Christ. We are His Body in the New Birth, the Divine Life.

Genesis 2:21-23: Eve out of Adam's side - close to his heart

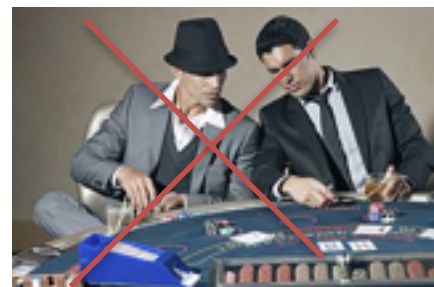
21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Ye are risen — or will rise — with Christ the moment you enter into Christ and have died with Him. This is also in the past tense — having ***put away the old life*** with its affections and lusts.

Galatians 5:24: And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.



1. Hidden with Christ . . . protection from satan

Christ is our life, ours for eternity. Eternal Life is only in Him. The force that carries us on in this world is not ours, but Christ's life. Thus we are more than conquerors thru Him Who loved us — glorified with Christ.

Romans 8:37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.

When He appears and we see Him in His Glory, He shall change our vile bodies, and will fashion them like unto His Glorious Body.

2. The conduct God Expects from those who are risen with Christ

Set your affections on things above — e.g., the Kingdom of God and His righteousness — above all of our pursuits, ambitions, and interests.

Colossians 3:2: Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

We can afford to let the world go by with its amusements and pleasures. Our day is coming. We can transfer our “bank accounts” (spiritually speaking) and have them awaiting us on the other shore. There they are safe and secure.

Matthew 6:19-21:

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



3. A divine order comes at last . . . mortify your members that are upon the earth.

It is the thought of the gardener picking off the old foliage of the old year's dead remains. This is the meaning of Easter. We have lost our old nature (foliage), and the new one's come in; lost the old life, and the new has come in. The old life is listed here, but the old life must leave before the new comes. We are to **put off** in **Colossians 3:8-9** before we can **put on** in **Colossians 3:10**.



Colossians 3:8-10:

⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the Image of Him [Christ] Who created him:

What is the difference of what Jesus does and what we are to do? **4.**

Our responsibility — Put away the old man

2 Corinthians 7:1: Having therefore these Promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Ephesians 4:22: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Ephesians 4:24: And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.



As stated above in:

Colossians 3:3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

However, there are certain things in us that may NOT be dead. We must reckon ourselves dead to *everything*, putting away the things of the flesh.

Romans 6:11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.



The word “Reckon” is not a feeling. It is something we must think about and do!

Risen is a holy life. It comes *after* crucifixion. Jesus’ birth was not His Resurrection; neither was our birth our resurrection. Resurrection follows the Cross, not the cradle.

Colossians 2:12: Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead.

5. Birth of the spirit brings regenerate life; Baptism of the Holy Spirit brings risen life.

Because of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which brings a risen life, we are able to live on the resources from above. We are to seek those things which are from above:

Colossians 3:1-2:

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the Right Hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

We cannot be spiritual by being earthly minded.

It is easy to find people that are earthly minded, but where are the heavenly minded?

We cannot be spiritual by being earthly minded.

Our spiritual life is not the old life reformed or refined. It is a new life born out of Christ from Heaven. The Word of God contemplates a Christian to be as another person entirely — heavenly in life, desire, and conversation.

No amount of energies, words, or prayers will oil the Church operations or machinery without Christ at the head. Christ is our life. A broken down life — assailed even by the enemy to the point of defeat — is a Christless life.

Do not begin trying to mortify your flesh. Rather, get charged by the Heavenly Life, and the old life will scam.

A writer of the *Canadian Baptist* says that some of us are so full of ourselves and/or are so busy serving that we cannot see Christ in all His beauty.

Some years ago when I was away on a preaching appointment, my wife and little daughter stayed at the home of a friend. On the bedroom wall, just over the head of the bed in which they slept, there was a picture of the Lord Jesus which reflected in the large mirror on the dressing table standing in the bay of the bedroom window.

When my little daughter woke on her first morning there, she saw the picture reflected in the mirror. While she still lay in bed, she exclaimed, “*O, Mommy – I can see Jesus through the mirror!*” Then she quickly knelt down to take a better look, but in so doing, brought her own body between the picture and the mirror, so that instead of seeing the picture reflected, she now saw herself. So she lay down again, and again saw the picture of Jesus. She was up and down several times after that, with her eyes fixed upon the mirror.



Then she said, “**Mommy, when I can’t see myself, I can see Jesus; but every time I see myself, I don’t see Him.**”

*How true it is that when self fills our vision,
we do not see Jesus,
and we de-throne Jesus from our hearts!*

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