

- I) V1-4 INTRO: If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ is
 - a) We have been given the commission of reaching the world with the gospel
 - 1) FACT: What is interesting is that in order to reach the world, we must first actually leave it

- II) TO BE EFFECTIVE: We need to reject living according to the standards of the current culture
 - a) THIS MEANS: We must maintain the right perspective on this world
 - 1) There needs to be a balance: We are *in* the world, but are not to be *of* the world (Jn 17:14-16)
 - 2) IN OTHER WORDS: We live in this world but the world should not be our primary influence

- III) KEY: If we allow the world to be our primary influencer, then we are divided in affection
 - a) We need to make sure that our primary focus is on the Lord and His kingdom
 - 1) 1 Pe 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your good works* which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

- IV) TO BE EFFECTIVE BELIEVERS: We need to choose whom we will serve, and pursue Him every day
 - a) This means that we grow in our love for the Lord, which makes us good testimonies
 - 1) 1 Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- V) SOME HAVE SAID: He is so *heavenly minded* he is of no earthly good
 - a) We believers need a radical transformation of the way we think
 - 1) Ro 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- VI) FACT: Until we see that we are in the world but not of it, we will remain ineffective in reaching it
 - a) When heaven becomes more important than earthly pleasure, this world loses its grip on us
 - 1) This is what Paul has been laying as a foundation in his first two chapters:
 - 2) He wants them to live a *practical Christian life*, motivated by being with Jesus

- VII) V1 *IF THEN*: You were *raised with Christ* seek those things which are above where Christ is
 - a) INTERESTINGLY: Paul begins by saying *If you* were raised with Christ
 - 1) Raised with Christ speaks of having a shared life with Jesus
 - 2) Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live...

- VIII) ONCE AGAIN: This is *a reminder* to them of their identification with Jesus in their baptism
 - a) POINT: Baptism is not simply the water, but our immersion in His death and resurrection
 - 1) Ro 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in *newness of life*

- IX) FACT: Since we now have God's Spirit living in us, we have divine life
 - a) Divine life is not just length of time, but *a quality of life* that reveals His presence in us
 - 1) Jn 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly

- I) KEY: Though we have newness of life, it is still possible for the old ways to fight for preeminence

- a) SO: If you are raised with Jesus, then seek Him and those things that characterize heaven
 - 1) Those things *which are above* are things like mercy, kindness, humility, meekness (V12-14)

- II) FACT: Your salvation is what produces a life evidenced by a love for and faith in God
 - a) It is something that you actually pursue, as it is not automatically produced
 - 1) Phil 2:12 As you have always *obeyed*, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling

- III) V1 WHAT WE DO: Is we *keep seeking* those things which are above where Christ is
 - a) Seeking is not on occasional thing, but is actually the driving purpose of a person's life:
 - 1) Ps 63:1 O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.
 - 2) Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but *one thing I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- IV) NOTICE: *Where Christ is* sitting at the right hand of God
 - a) Because Jesus is at the Father's right hand, He is the One who blesses those who seek Him
 - 1) The right hand is a picture of honor, authority, and power
 - 2) Heb 1:3 When He had purged our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high
 - 3) Jn 14:13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son

- V) V2 *SET YOUR MIND*: On things above not on things on the earth
 - a) KEY: If we are to keep seeking those things which are above, we need to set our affections there
 - 1) These things are clouded out of sight when we put our eyes on the temporary: riches, honor
 - 2) Dt 4:29 You will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

- VI) THE FACT IS: The Jewish legalism and Greek mysticism would focus their attention on things on earth
 - a) The law would keep their eyes on things on earth: they need to keep their eyes on Jesus
 - 1) It is like a person's wedding day: is it the event and preparations, or the person?

- VII) IF WE: Are seeking and setting our minds on things above we will resist the world's enticements
 - a) *Affairs*, stealing, lying, gossiping, and angry outbursts will be overcome
 - 1) These things will be overcome because we have a greater love in our lives: Jesus

- VIII) V3 FOR YOU DIED: And your life is hidden with Christ in God
 - a) KEY: They died to the Law of Moses, and its claim on them, and sin and its rule over them
 - 1) Ro 6:14 Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
 - 2) Which is why they should not be tempted to turn to these things, after they had been saved

- IX) NOTICE: *Your life* is hidden with Christ in God
 - a) FIRST: Your spiritual life is safely secured in Jesus
 - 1) Jn 10:28-29 I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand
 - l) SECOND: Unbelievers cannot grasp this kind of life, because it is hidden from them
 - a) 1 Co 2:14 The natural man receives not the things of God...

- II) V4 WHEN CHRIST: *Who is our life* appears then you also will appear with Him in glory
 - a) FINALLY: People are trying to find life, and they look in many directions
 - 1) Ultimately, we all must make decisions concerning our priorities

- III) QUESTION: What has your heart? What is your most valuable possession or desire?
 - a) What is it that constitutes your life?
 - 1) Mt 6:19-21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
 - 2) Ps 73:25-26 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my *heart* fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

- IV) JESUS IS OUR LIFE: He is not a religious teacher, pointing us to a way of life but *is our life*
 - a) Jn 1:4 In him was *life*, and that life was the light of men.
 - b) Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die *is* gain.

- V) V4 WHEN CHRIST: Who is our life appears then you also will appear with Him in glory
 - a) Though our life in Christ is not seen by the world, when He returns it will be evident

- VI) FINALLY: This is one of the oldest prophecies in scripture
 - a) Jude 14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones
 - 2) Rev. 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.
 - 3) Jn 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am there you may be also.

- VII) IF THIS IS TRUE: Then how should we live?
 - a) 1 Jn 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.
 - b) Rev 22:12 behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.
 - 1) We must set our hearts on things above