

Filled, Complete, Whole
(Week 6)
Because I'm Raised To A New Life

SMALL TALK

1. Can you remember a time when you felt hopeful about changes you were looking forward to in your life?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Colossians 3:1-4.** Why is it very important that we think about what we think about?
3. What does it mean to “set your mind on things above.” (3:2) How do you do this? What sort of things do you consciously think about to do this?
4. What does 3:3 mean? What does “you have died” mean? What does “your life is hidden with God” mean? Who can see your “hidden life”? Compare this with Ephesians 2:6, and what does that mean?
5. What does the phrase “Christ who is your life” mean (3:4)?

GETTING PERSONAL

6. What earthly things are dangerous to your mind set or tendency toward an unworthy fixation?
7. Why should we look forward to Christ’s return?

PRACTICE!

8. What else struck you from your personal “Training in the Word” through Colossians this week?

December 12, 2021

Filled, Complete, Whole **(Week 6) Because I'm Raised To A New Life**

As the story goes, penny-pinching Jack Benny was walking along when suddenly an armed robber approached and said, “Your money or your life!” There was a long pause as Benny did nothing. The robber impatiently cried, “Well?” Jack Benny replied, “Don’t rush me! I’m thinking about it.”

We laugh because sometimes our values are so messed up that what should be obvious gets muddled in our minds. What can we do when our mind is set on the wrong things? That’s what today is all about.

Colossians 3:1–4 (CSB) So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the 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 hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

I SEEK His KINGDOM

Jesus said, “SEEK first his Kingdom” in Matt 6:33, and now here, Paul uses the same word, “SEEK” in a very similar way.

Colossians 3:1 (CSB) So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

How do you do this?

Colossians 3:2 (CSB) Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

The opening joke about Jack Benny was about one confused earthbound mind set--money! There are many others. Paul will list examples later in the chapter, and we will cover those next week.

Here's a common mindset: "It's all about me and it's all about now."

I heard recently what the top 5 sins for men are. Ready? Pride, Pride, Pride, Pride, and Lust!

Life's NOT all about me and it is NOT all about now!

What are you seeking?

Where do you "seek" fulfillment? (that's 3:1)

Where do you "set your mind"? (that's 3:2)

What do you think about most frequently?

When you seek to be filled, complete, and whole, what is your go-to?

Paul instructs us!

What you set your mind on will be what you keep seeking. Your fixation (mindset) always affects your aim in life.

What does it look like to set your mind on things above and beyond?

Do you picture streets of gold? Pearly gates? A throne room? I don't think that's what this is instructing us to focus on. I think he is instructing us to focus on our sovereign Heavenly King... Focus on who he is. Focus on what he is doing, and what he will do.

Think about things like:

- God who fills the universe with life.
- He created the systems of life and glory.
- He supplies me with life, energy, and motivation.
- All of Life and vitality comes from him.
- He gives me help, energy, and joy.
- He gives me peace, not like the world gives, but the peace of God which surpasses all human comprehension. It's real peace.

- When my mind is properly set, my mind can finally rest, knowing he is not surprised by what has surprised me.
- He has the power and he has the answers I am looking for.
- In fact he can do far more than I ask or even imagine.
- I can trust him to write the next chapter of my story, a story that will be good and pleasing to him, and to me.
- He works all things together for my good.

All these thoughts are based on scriptures.

- I picture his goodness, and character. All goodness comes from him. He brings the fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. These are his character qualities. He will live through me if I will walk with him.
- From his goodness, he fills me with his goodness.
- From the riches of heaven, he fills my earthly being.
- All this from who he is, and because of what Jesus has done for me. Thoughts like these fuel my worship. These thoughts help me seek his kingdom, and set my mind on things above!

II. **Seek, SET, Live**

[grab the volleyball!] In volleyball it was “Bump”, “Set”, “Spike”, or “Dig”, “Set”, “Spike”. When life comes at you, to use volleyball terms, it’s “Bump”, “Set”, “Spike”. **That’s the game plan.**

The Bible gives us a similar game plan. We need to SEEK, SET, LIVE. Let’s look at verse 2 a little more closely.

Colossians 3:2 (CSB) **Set** your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Grammatically speaking, the word translated “set” here is a **present tense imperative (and so was “seek” 3:1)**. That may mean nothing to you, but it’s important for this reason: a present tense imperative **requires an ongoing effort**. It is not a once and done kind of word, but something I do everyday. I must keep setting my mind on things

above. Keep seeking. To do this requires a reorienting action of my mind.

You must think about what you think about. Ask yourself where your mind tends to be set. Take time each day to reorient where your mind is “set”. It makes all the difference in how you live. Seek, SET, Live!

That’s the game plan of life!

III. Your Life is now HIDDEN with Christ

*Colossians 3:3 (CSB) For you died, and your life is **hidden** with Christ in God.*

This statement is ONLY true for disciples of Jesus.

“For you died” (Colossians 3:3) when you died with him in your baptism (Colossians 2:12) and you have been raised with Christ (Colossians 3:1) and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

- As Christ is hidden now, my real life is also hidden now with him.
- The glory and power of Christ is yet hidden even though he is now seated on the throne of the universe in glory and power.
- Because of my union with him, I am seated with him (Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1). I am seated with him in that glory, and in that power.
- This is also hidden in this world. Yet, this hidden glory is not hidden for all. **God** sees the glory every time he looks at us! God has enveloped us in Christ so that when He looks at us, He always sees His glorious dear Son. No matter how or when God looks at us, He sees Christ—sees Him in all the beauty of His holiness, all the glory of His grace, and all the splendor of His person.
- God isn’t the only one who sees this glory. The devil and all his demons see the glory of those hidden in Christ, and are repelled. When my mind is set above, and I’m with Christ and

nothing remains between me and Christ separating me from him, Satan cannot get to me. He can't because he would have to go through God the Father and God the Son and all their glory and power to get at Me!!!

- In any book, that's a fantastic hiding place, don't you think? Hidden with Christ in God. People can't see the glory of it. It is that well hidden. But not for long!

Colossians 3:4 (CSB) When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

IV. Does Jesus have a place in your life?

You might think you have the right answer to this question. You might think something like: "Of course, Jesus has a place in my life. He has a big place in my life." But even this kind of thinking must be corrected and here's why.

Colossians 3:4 (CSB) When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Look carefully at what we just read. Jesus does not want a "place" in your life. Jesus is not an add on. **HE IS YOUR LIFE!**

Jesus doesn't want a place in your life; He wants your whole life. Jesus desires, deserves, and demands preeminence! Jesus' supremacy (Colossians 1 and 2) means he has no real competitor. Don't let there be a competitor to Jesus in your life. Nobody and nothing is to crowd Jesus out of your life. Don't just give Jesus a place in your life; Jesus is your life. Seek, Set, Live! He's your everything!