

In Memoriam

Remembering the Christ

Week 7: *Our Easter Experience*

INTRODUCTION – Seeing Ourselves in the Story

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. [3] For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4] When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

~ Colossians 3:1-4 (NASB)

The Gospel of Jesus is the Good News message that God became one of us to:

- SHOW us his love.
- SAVE us from sin.
- SHUT DOWN religion.

DINE IN – Studying the Text in Context

Colossians 3:1-4

- **HAVE BEEN RAISED:** Baptism has already been used by Paul to illustrate our death and resurrection with Christ (2:12). As in Romans 6-7 and Galatians 3-4, Paul suggests that we have died our old, ego-centric lives, but also to our religious identities and attempts to follow the letter of the Law. We are simply “in Christ” and, if we have died with Christ to our past, then we have also risen with Christ to a new life. We have begun our eternal life now. We are not winding down our present life while we wait for a supernatural future. Our eternal life is already underway and we should live accordingly.
- **KEEP SEEKING:** Even those who are alive in Christ should continue to search for, to seek (TNIV/NIV: set your hearts on) what is “above”. Believers are still seekers, always wanting more of the Christ-life.
- **THINGS ABOVE:** Not a spatial reference but a way of saying that our minds should be tuned into and focussed on the ways of Christ – the way of Spirit over Law, of God’s Kingdom over our culture, of New Covenant faith over tradition and religion.

- **YOU’RE DEAD:** As our baptism illustrates, we have died with Christ to our old ways and old religion (also see Romans 7-8).
- **HIDDEN:** Saying our life is “hidden” suggests security and safety.
- **IN GOD:** We look forward to absolute experienced intimacy. Union – without dissolution, dissolving, or disappearing.
- **CHRIST OUR LIFE:** Fully giving ourselves over to Jesus – the Way, the Truth, and the Life – is the key to fulfillment. Trying to half-follow Jesus while blending his teaching with other worldviews is like the person who never marries because they are afraid of missing all that is out there for them. They never experience the deep intimacy that is forged only in loyal exclusivity.

TAKE OUT – Applying The Text In Our Context

What is Jesus saying to you today?

CONCLUSION – A Church For “Seekers”

“...keep seeking...”
~ The Apostle Paul

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.
2. Talk about this quote from Watchman Nee: *Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read our key text and beyond (3:1-17) in a variety of translations if possible. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) If we are already dead in Christ, why must we put anything to death as **verse 5** instructs? c) Brainstorm: What are implications of **verse 11**? d) According to Paul, what role can music play in the life of the church? What role does music play in your spiritual life?

SO WHAT?...

4. To what extent are you an active “seeker” of what is above?

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, March 23, 2008