

SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MARCH 2, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:1-4

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. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have 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.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

How would you describe a) the basis of, and b) the strength of your confidence in your relationship with the Lord?

SERMON RECAP

In the Scriptures, spiritual growth is not about you trying to become somebody you are not. Spiritual growth is about learning to become the person you already are in Christ. For those who have received Jesus Christ, spiritual growth is fueled by the following:

- Remembering who you are.
- Remembering what you have.
- Remembering what you have to look forward to.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Colossians 3:1-4 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
 - In the context of today's passage—
 - To whom did the Apostle Paul write the letter to the Colossians? (Colossians 1:1-2a)
 - What is the basis of the Apostle Paul's prayers for the recipients of this letter? (Colossians 1:3-5)
 - What did the Apostle Paul pray for these recipients? (Colossians 1:9-12)
 - What overall invitation does the Apostle Paul hold out to the saints and faithful brothers to whom he wrote? (Colossians 2:6-7)
 - In today's passage—
 - What specific invitation does the Apostle Paul hold out to the saints? (Colossians 3:1b-2)
 - What is the basis and foundation for this call on their lives? (Colossians 3:1a, 3-4a)
 - What does the Apostle Paul promise as the culmination of their lives, hidden with Christ in God? (Colossians 3:4)
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?
3. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today's passage, and why?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Read Colossians 2:20-23. What 'regulations' of the world dominate the way that you think? What pressures in and around you contend with the word of God for your attention and allegiance? What self-willed performances do you rely on for satisfaction and/or spiritual growth?
2. Has your identity been characterized by arrogance, hypocrisy, or despair? What from today's passage might help you find freedom from those feelings?
3. In Colossians 1:15-22 and 2:9, what is revealed about the person of Jesus Christ? What are the potential implications of these truths about Jesus on and in your life?
4. Read Colossians 1:13, 21-22, 2:9-15. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? If you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, what has God provided to you through your union with Jesus? What are the implications of each of these provisions?

5. Holiness results not from behavior modification, but from receiving Jesus Christ, being in relationship with Him, and relying fully on Him. In what ways is Colossians 3:1-4 inviting those who have entrusted their lives to Christ to turn from legalistic behavioral modification and toward true life in Christ?
6. Colossians 2:6-7 invite those who have received Christ Jesus, the Lord, to walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith. How does Jesus' person, power, and provision, laid out in Colossians 1:15-22 and 2:6-15, provide the foundation and empowerment for living in relationship with and full reliance on Him (i.e., for walking in Him)?
7. Read Colossians 3:4, Romans 8:20-23, and 1 John 3:1-2. What awaits those who have received Christ Jesus? What confidence does this hold out to those who walk in Him?
8. Have you been setting your mind on things above? Is your whole life (e.g., your thoughts, desires, motives, decisions, words, actions) focused on and devoted to Jesus Christ? Where and how are you living based on anything other than the glorious reality of being united with Jesus? Spend time honestly identifying and reflecting on those areas where your attention and devotion need to be reset on Jesus. How can your church group members can help you keep your eyes set on things above this week?

LEADER NOTES

CHURCH FAMILY MEETING | Please join us at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 12 at mcleanbible.org/churchfamilymeeting to celebrate what the Lord is doing here at MBC! There will also be the opportunity to vote in new members. Please email your location pastor with any questions or concerns.

DISCIPLESHIP IN A DIGITAL AGE CONFERENCE | Join us at MBC Tysons for a conference exploring how to follow Jesus in the digital age. We'll discuss navigating social media, AI, and misinformation while engaging with God's Word and embodying His purposes for the church in a virtual world. This event previews the upcoming McLean Bible Institute, featuring sessions by Mike Kelsey and David Platt. This conference is open to ages 9th grade and older. To register, please visit mcleanbible.org/events