

Seek and Set Those Things Which Are Above

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"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

~ Colossians 3:1-4

**"Seek those things
which are above"**

**"Set your affection
on things above"**

Paul tells us to do two things regarding *"those things which are above."* First he tells us to, **"Seek** those things which are above." Then he tells us to, **"Set** your affection on things above."

There are some glorious *"things that are above"* that we are to *"seek"* out. Then after we have found them, we need to *"set"* our affection on them.

Our English word *"seek"* has a meaning of,

*"To go in search or quest of; to look for; to search for by going from place to place."*¹

Its etymology means, *"to follow; for to seek is to go after, and the primary sense is to advance, to press, to drive forward."*²

Our English word *"set"* has a meaning of,

*"To put, place or fix in any situation."*³

1. Noah Webster, *American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

The Greek word⁴ is also translated as *savor*,⁵ *think*,⁶ *mind*,⁷ *regard*,⁸ and *care*.⁹

Of course, Paul does not leave us in the dark concerning “*those things which are above*.” He has revealed them to us, planting them throughout his writings for us to “*seek*” out. This is our purpose here, to identify from Paul’s letters a few of “*those things which are above*,” so that we may follow the admonition of our apostle to “*seek*” and “*set*.” Five of these are right here in our “*seek and set*” passage (Colossians 3:1-4).

JESUS CHRIST

“... *where Christ sitteth* ...” (Colossians 3:1).

Our Lord Jesus Christ is to be the object of our seeking and setting. He is seated at the Right Hand of God. We will never exhaust the richness of His person and work. This was the passion of Paul, as his heart revealed itself to the Philippian saints.

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death” (Philippians 3:7-10).

THE RIGHT-HAND THRONE

“... *sitteth on the right hand* ...” (Colossians 3:1).

We are to seek out and set our affections on God’s Right-Hand throne. Not only is the Lord Jesus Christ seated there; this is the place of our present position and standing in Him, as well as our future and final destiny with Him. Because we are the sons of God, we are His heirs as well, and of course the Lord Jesus Christ’s joint-heirs. We are heir to all that the Father possesses. We share these riches with our Savior and Head.

“We are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:16b-17a).

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6).

4. James Strong, *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*, Greek #5426, *phroneo*

5. Matthew 16:23; Mark 8:33.

6. Acts 28:22; Romans 12:3; I Corinthians 4:6; Philippians 1:7.

7. Romans 8:5; 12:16; II Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 5:10; Philippians 2:2, 5; 3:15, 16, 19; 4:2.

8. Romans 14:6.

9. Philippians 4:10.

OUR FATHER

“... of God” (Colossians 3:1).

The God of the universe is to be the focus of our seeking and setting. He is not just the universe’s Almighty, He is our loving and precious Father.

“Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 1:2).

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Galatians 4:6).

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15).

Because our identity is in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now can speak the language of a son! The intimate term that our Lord Jesus Christ used for the Father was “Abba.”

“And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee; take away this cup from Me: nevertheless not what I will, but what Thou wilt” (Mark 14:36).

OUR LIFE

“... your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life ...” (Colossians 3:3-4).

We are to seek out and set our affections on our *real* life. The Life of Christ is our life. We are alive with Divine-life, through Him.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6).

GLORY

“... appear with Him in **glory**” (Colossians 3:4).

The final example that Paul gave us in this passage of what we are to seek out and set our affections on is the glory of God. This too is our final destiny. We who had “come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), will “appear with Him in **glory.**”

“By Whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in

hope of the **glory** of God” (Romans 5:2).

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in **glory** ...” (I Corinthians 15:42-43a).

“Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal **glory**” (II Timothy 2:10).

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory** which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of **glory**” (II Corinthians 4:17).

“And that He might make known the riches of His **glory** on the vessels of mercy, which He had afore prepared unto **glory**” (Romans 9:23).

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our **glory**” (I Corinthians 2:7).

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the **glory** of His inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:18).

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the **glory** of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of **glory**” (Colossians 1:27).

“That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto His kingdom and **glory**” (II Thessalonians 2:12).

“Whereunto He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the **glory** of our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Thessalonians 2:14).

Do not be distracted from what is *real*, by the make-believe of this world; its system and course. Instead, diligently “**seek**” out the “*things that are above*,” “*setting*” your affection on them.

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