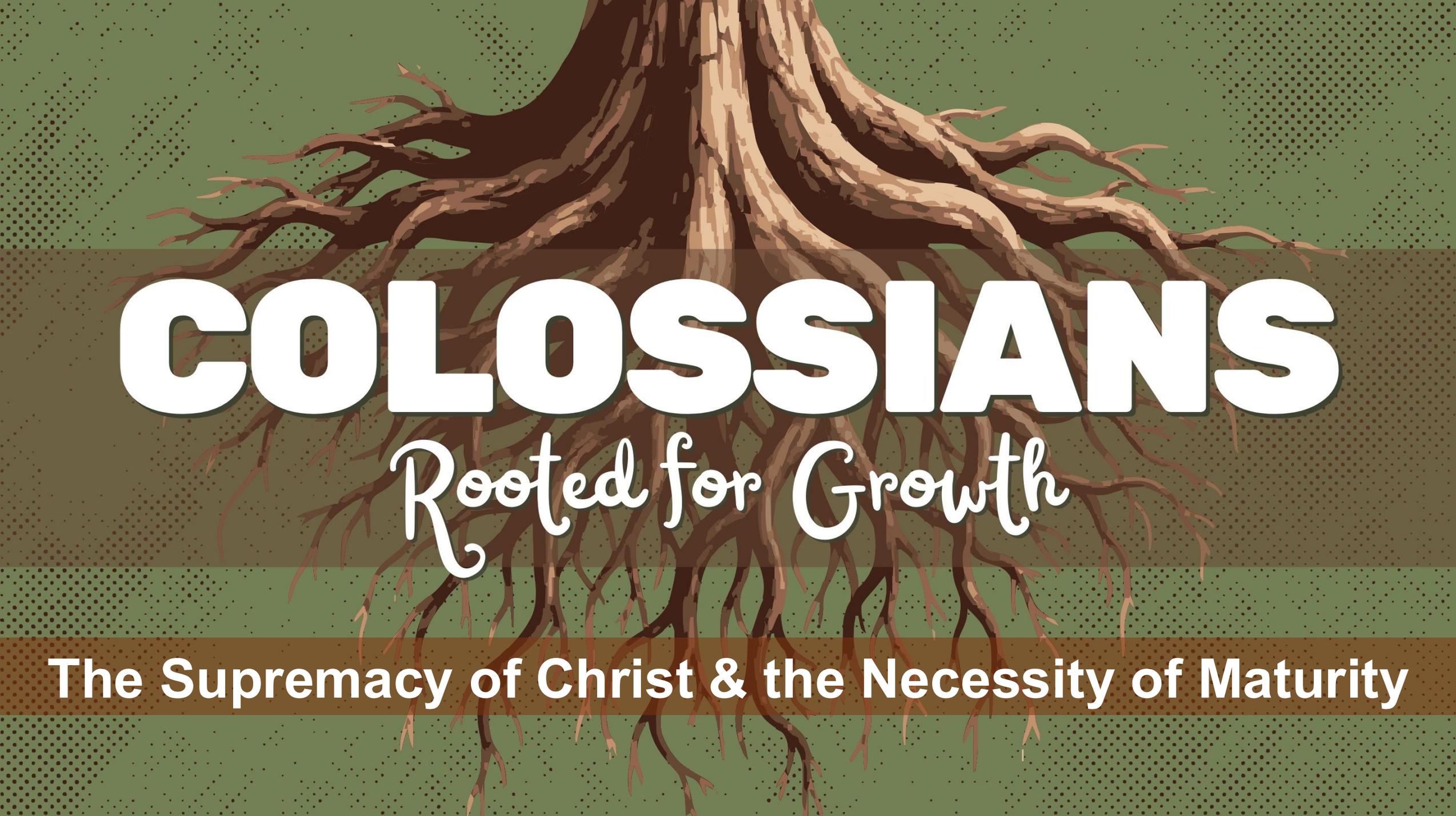


COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth



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The Supremacy of Christ & the Necessity of Maturity

Today's cultural landscape,
both secular and sacred,
looks surprisingly similar to first century Colossae.

There is a syncretistic dynamic in a new
“alternative orthodoxy” dividing the church,
which contains tentacles of a new age philosophy that
degrades the need and necessity for a personal redeemer.

These movements claim that the “old orthodoxies” are
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“religion.”**



COLOSSIANS

Syncretistic Dangers in the Church

The Gospel

(orthodox biblical truth)

was / is being
corrupted by a
variety of
elements,
including ...

Jewish Legalism
Subjective Experientialism
Artificial Supernaturalism
Intellectual Elitism
Greek Mysticism
Roman Polytheism



COLOSSIANS *Rooted for Growth*

Chapter 2:16-23

Dead or Alive

Shadow or Substance

When the 'shadows' of our faith
become the 'substance'
(or the primary focus of our attention)
we will find ourselves simply being religious
people who are in fact living out a
man-centered gospel that is devoid of any power
to live in the freedom of a transformed life.

**Legalism
and
Mysticism**

20 If with Christ you died to
as if you were still alive

21 “Do not handle

22 (referring to

according to h

23 These h

in prom

severity to the body,

**but they are of no value in stopping the
indulgence of the flesh.**



Dead or Alive
Shadow or Substance

Heart and Head

- 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.

- 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.
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 and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
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¹ **If then you have been raised with Christ,**

1

seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

²

2

Set your minds on things that are above,
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³

3

For you have died,
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴

4

When Christ who is your life appears,
then you also will appear with Him in glory.

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. }

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, ...and you have been.

{ seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. }

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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.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.

seek the things that are above,

2

Colossians 2:11-14

11 In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

3

12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which ***you were also raised with Him*** through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

4

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.

seek the things that are above,

2 ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision
of your flesh, God made alive together with Him,
3 having forgiven us all our trespasses,
4 ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us
with its legal demands.
This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.

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This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.

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Romans 6:8-10

2 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ
Jesus were baptized into His death?

3 4 We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death,
in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the
glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

4 5 For if we have been united with Him in a death like His,
we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.

seek the things that are above,

2
3
6 We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the
body of sin might be brought to nothing,
so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

4
8 Now if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with Him.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.

seek the things that are above,

2 ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,
will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over Him.

3 ¹⁰ For the death He died He died to sin, once for all,
but the life He lives He lives to God.

4 ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in
Christ Jesus.

1 **Since** **you have been raised with Christ,** ...and you have been.

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.

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2 **Greek: zéteó**

3 **Meaning:** to seek....to seek after, to seek for, to seek as a
means of finding; to diligently search for.

4 **Jewish context / worldview:** to worship (God);

God.

in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
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Greek: zéteó

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Meaning: to seek....to seek after, to seek for, to seek as a means of finding; to diligently search for.

4

Jewish context / worldview: to worship (God);
to intensely look for something with all of your heart with full expectation of you will find what you are seeking.

God.

glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2

Matthew 6:25-34

3

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life,
what you will eat or what you will drink,
nor about your body, what you will put on.
Is not life more than food, and the body more than
clothing?”

4

God.

in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2
3 ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor
gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds
them.

Are you not of more value than they?

4 ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to
his span of life?

God.

in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2

²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing?

3

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow:
they neither toil nor spin,

4

²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not
arrayed like one of these.

God.

in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2
3 ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field,
which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the
oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little
faith?

4 ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or
'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

God.

in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2
3³² For the Gentiles **seek** after all these things,
and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.
4³³ But **seek** first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.

God.

in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Matthew 7:7-11

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who **seeks** finds,
and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

God.

in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2
3
4
9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread,
will give him a stone?
10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?
11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your
children, how much more will your Father who is in
heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

God.
in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2
3
4

The key is
what do you seek
and
from whom do you seek it.

God.
in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.

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.

¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
² but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son,
whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.
³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature,
and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.
After making purification for sins, **He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**
⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more
excellent than theirs.

¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 8:1-2

¹ Now the point in what we are saying is this:

we have such a high priest, **one who is seated at the right hand of the throne** of the Majesty in heaven,

² a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 10:11-14

- ¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service,
offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.
- ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins,
He sat down at the right hand of God,
- ¹³ waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet.
- ¹⁴ For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been **seek the things that are above**,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and **is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might
²⁰ that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,**

¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

- ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,
and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to
come.
- ²² And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Romans 8:31-35

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all,
how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—
who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

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¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
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Hebrews 7:22-25

²² This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

²⁴ but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever.

²⁵ Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁷ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—**who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.**—
was raised—

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

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³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

¹ Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
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.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ,** ...and you have been.
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,
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then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ,** ...and you have been.
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4 When Christ who is your life appears,

then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
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,**

things that are on earth.

Greek: phroneó

1. to exercise the mind, entertain or have a sentiment or opinion.
2. (by implication) **to be mentally strongly disposed toward something.**
3. intensively to interest oneself in (with concern or obedience).

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.
seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

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1. to exercise the mind, entertain or have a sentiment or opinion.
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Strong minded (accompanied by being soft-hearted)

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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.

1 Since **you have been raised with Christ**, ...and you have been.

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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.]

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

- ¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
- ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.
- ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
- ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

〔 When Christ who is your life appears,
then you also will appear with Him in glory. 〕

Summary and Thread of the Message

Summary and Thread of the Message

Our lives are defined by our relationship with Christ in His birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, eventual return and our eternal glory provided by Him and Him alone...

...therefore it only makes sense to have our hearts and our heads focus entirely on the things that are eternal rather than temporal.

So.....Therefore.....What Now



So.....Therefore.....What Now

Decisively put things where they belong.

So.....Therefore.....What Now

Decisively put things where they belong.

**Tenaciously pursue the things of eternity
because they shape the things of today.**

So.....Therefore.....What Now

Decisively put things where they belong.

Tenaciously pursue the things of eternity
because they shape the things of today.

**Rejoice in the reality that Christ is your life
and His grace gives death the sweet aroma of life.**

Closing Benediction

Galatians 2:20

**I have been crucified with Christ.
It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself for me.**