

Reteaching/Study Guide from Lakeside's Online Worship  
Sunday, October 18, 2020, Sermon by Dr. Greg Corbin, Senior Pastor  
"A New Mindset for a New Year" –Colossians 3:1-4

*"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*  
*Colossians 2:13-15 Christian Standard Bible*

I have at times heard the statement made regarding some person that "he's so heavenly minded that he's of no earthly good." Usually the statement refers to someone's inability to live practically in the world or to a "holier than thou" attitude. I am, however, convinced that the reverse of the statement is more often true of most of us: we tend to be "so earthly minded that we're of no heavenly good." Too often our thoughts are more focused on the things of the world and the cares of life than they are on God, His work, His purpose, and the hope He alone gives. Having reminded the Colossians of the supremacy of Christ and of the completeness of His work, Paul turned in the third chapter of Colossians to instructions for living in the light of who Jesus is and of what He has done for us. If Jesus is supreme and His redeeming work for us is complete, what should we do about it, i.e. how should we live. To prepare the Colossians for how they should live, Paul first told them how they should think. He pointed them to a new mindset that would offer them a fresh perspective for living out their salvation. He told them to set their minds "on things above, not on earthly things." In short, he told them and us to be heavenly minded. This new mindset is framed by four principles, highlighted in Colossians 3:1-4.

**His life is my life.** By faith and because of Jesus' work, my life is united to His in such a way that His death was my death and in His resurrection I have been raised *with* Him to walk in gratitude and obedience *to* Him. I serve Him freely and joyfully, not legalistically. Even more reassuring, my life is hidden (secured and guarded) in Christ, giving me the ability to withstand any challenge this world can offer.

**My life is His life.** I have been purchased at the price of His life. I am His: "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). I live in this world, but Jesus, my Risen Lord, sets my priorities. I live to please Him, not myself.

**My thoughts pave the way.** "The battleground for much of the Christian life is the mind. If we don't think right, then we will not live right. If we don't think truth, then we will not live by the truth" (Greg Corbin). I cannot control my circumstances, but I must put forth the effort to focus my thoughts on things above. As I pray, read the Bible, sing praises to God, and fellowship with other believers, I train my mind to focus heavenward. As I train my mind to focus heavenward, I live, act, and speak more consistently with the faith I have confessed in Christ.

**His victory is my victory.** Regardless of the twists and turns of the plot of my life, the end of my story is already written. As a believer, I will be glorified with Christ for all eternity when He returns. That truth is an anchor for my soul and a wonderfully bright light on even the darkest days. Pain, fear, and brokenness will have their end; my victory is in Christ. This assurance gives me hope to live "on purpose" for Jesus regardless of what I face in this world: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18).

**To reflect further about our new “heavenly mindset,” read Romans 12 (particularly verses 1-2), Philippians 4 (particularly verses 8-9), Psalm 27, and Galatians 2:15-21.**

**Questions/Actions for Reflection/Discussion/Application**

HIS life is MY LIFE. – have you received Jesus’ life into your life?

MY life is HIS life. - Have you settled the issue of who/what you are living your life for?

MY THOUGHTS pave the way. – What are you giving your thoughts to?

His VICTORY is MY victory. - What point of pain tends to bring me defeat?

You’re in My Prayers,

*Stacey*