

Colossians 3.¹⁻⁴

¹... Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ... (NIV).

This is our 21st reading for Lent 2025.

1. Paul admonishes, “set your *hearts* on things above” and “set your *minds* on things above.”
 - ? What are some of the “things” that constitute “things” that are “above”?
 - ? What is the difference between setting the “heart” on “things above,” and setting the “mind” on “things above”?
 - ? How avidly are your *affections* set on “things above”? Why do you answer as you do?
 - ? How avidly are your *thoughts* set on “things above”? Why do you answer as you do?
 - ? What are the evidences—in the way you spend your time, considerations, talents, money, etc.—that “things above” take priority in your daily life?
2. Paul bases our setting the heart and mind on “things above” upon our having “been raised with Christ.”
 - ? What does he mean by being “raised with Christ”?
 - ? How, for Paul, is setting our hearts and minds on “things above” more than a kind of enlightened self-control regimen and more a reflection of our encounter with a transforming Jesus?
 - ? How did Jesus evidence that he had set his heart and mind on “things above”?
 - ? How does he assist us to follow him in his priorities?
3. As a corollary to setting our “hearts on things above,” Paul also indicates that since we have been raised with Christ, we are *not* to set our hearts and minds “on earthly things.”
 - ? What sorts of things constitute “earthly things”?
 - ? How many of these earthly things surround you at home, work, etc.?
 - ? What does their abundance or scarcity say about your priorities?
 - ? How did Jesus show his lack of interest in “earthly things”?
 - ? What changes can you make in your life to follow Jesus’ example of proper priorities?
4. Paul offers as another reason for our establishing priorities for “things above” over “earthly things” the fact that we “died, and [our] life is hidden with Christ in God.”
 - ? What, do you think, does it mean to have one’s life “hidden with Christ in God”?
 - ? What role would having your life “hidden with Christ in God” play in helping you be released from the servitude of “earthly things” and the desires and lusts that earthly things encourage and nourish?