

## The Life Of A Christian

**COL 3:1 If [since] then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

1. "If then you have been raised up with Christ" - The word "if" is best understood as "since." There was no doubt about their resurrection "with Christ." "If" in English and in Greek is often used with the meaning of "since."

a. They had died with Christ.

1) Jesus had died a physical death on the cross, but their death was a spiritual death occurring when in faith they repented of their sins and had been baptized that their sins might be forgiven. (Acts 2:38).

2) They had died to sin as a way of life and pleasing self. They had not died to it in the absolute. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).

3) This death was confirmed when they were buried with Christ in baptism. (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3,4).

COL 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

ROM 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

ROM 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

b. They had "been raised up with Christ." "sunegeiro" [soon eh gay roh] - "to raise up with any one" (Eph. 2:6; Col. 2:12; 3:17).

1) Christ's resurrection was a physical resurrection (Lk. 24:39; Jn. 20:19-28), but was a spiritual resurrection.

2) This is a reference to coming forth from the waters of baptism.

3) Baptism is not just getting wet, but it confirms a death to sin as one's master.

4) Those who had truly believed and repented arose from the watery grave to "walk in the newness of life."

5) They were no longer to participate in the old life, but were to live a new life with Christ as Lord.

6) They were to imitate Christ and pursue His commandments.

7) They and all Christians are a "new creation." (2 Cor. 5:17).

2CO 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. "ktisis" [k tee sis] - "creation, a created thing, a creature."

2. "keep seeking the things above" - "keep seeking" is continuous action. "zeteo" [zay teh oh] - "to seek, strive for" See Matt. 2:20; 6:33.

a. This should be one's constant, daily attitude.

- 1) This was not an action to be pursued lukewarmly or to be delayed or to be pursued once in a while.
  - 2) It was not an optional action for one desiring to please his Lord and to be blessed by Him.
- b. It was possible to have a change of mind, and begin to focus once again on things of this world.
- 1) This was a danger to Christians then and now. See Rom. 12:1, 2; Heb. 3:13; 1 Jn. 2:15.
  - 2) So often one reverts back to one's former life of seeking to fulfil the desires of the flesh and putting emphasis on laying up treasures on earth.
- c. "Seeking the things above" does not mean Christians are to be sky gazers.
- 1) This is foolish because we do not know when Christ is coming. (Matt. 24:36, 42).
  - 2) This is foolish because it hinders us fulfilling our mission of seeking and saving the lost. (Mk. 16:16).
  - 3) This is foolish because obedience, not sky gazing, prepares us to meet God. (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9).
- d. "Seeking the things above" means God's children constantly seek to please Him.
- 1) Jesus had the right mind set. (Jn. 4:34).

JOH 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

- 2) Christians are to "hunger and thirst for righteousness." (Matt. 5:6).

MAT 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

- 3) Pleasing the Lord should be the food and drink, the all for the child of God.
- 4) As a person longs for physical food and drink, Christians should have an intense desire to please Christ.

- e. God's children seek His will. (Matt. 6:10; 7:21; Jas. 4:15; 1 Jn. 2:17).

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

- a. Christ is not in the tomb nor in any earthly grave, but He is in heaven.

- 1) The ascension of Christ is recorded in the gospels and in Acts. (Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:9-11).

MAR 16:19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

LUK 24:51 And it came about that while He was blessing them, He parted from them.

ACT 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

ACT 1:10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them;

ACT 1:11 and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken

up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

2) Here are some other references to His ascension. (1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:14; Eph. 1:20,21; 4:10).

1TI 3:16 And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

HEB 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

EPH 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

EPH 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

EPH 4:10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

3) Jesus now has a glorious spiritual body. (Phil. 3:21).

PHI 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity **with the body of His glory**, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

4) He received this spiritual body sometime during the ascension. (1 Cor. 15:50).

5) One day we too will have a glorious spiritual body. (1 Cor. 15:50-57; Phil. 3:20; 1 Jn. 3:2).

b. He did not return to heaven in shame because of a failed mission. (Lk. 19:10), but has been "highly exalted." (Phil. 2:9).

1) He lived in the flesh without sin that He might become the propitiation for our sins. (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 Jn. 2:1,2).

2) Jesus died for the sins of those who obey Him. (Heb. 5:9).

3) Jesus successfully laid all the ground work for His kingdom that He taught was very near. (Matt. 4:17; 10:7; Mk. 9:1).

4) He ascended into heaven to be immediately exalted as King.

c. Christ is now "seated at the right hand of God." (Acts 2:33,34; Eph. 1:20; Heb. 1:3; 1 Pet. 3:22).

ACT 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

ACT 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord,' Sit at My right hand,

EPH 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

HEB 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

1PE 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been

subjected to Him.

1) These and other scriptures reveal He is now “exalted” at the right hand of God.

2) Jesus was the fulfillment of David’s prophecy. (Psa. 110:1).

PSA 110:1 The Lord [God] says to my Lord [Jesus]: "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet."

3) Jesus correctly applied this scripture to Himself, and pointed out David recognized the superiority of the Messiah by calling Him “my Lord.” The Messiah was not a mere “son” or descendant of David, but his “Lord.”

4) Jesus applied Psalm 110:1 to Himself when He was debating the Pharisees “in the temple.” (Mk. 12:35-37).

MAR 12:35 And Jesus answering began to say, as He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?"

MAR 12:36 "David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'The Lord said to my Lord,' Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet.' "

MAR 12:37 "David himself calls Him 'Lord'; and so in what sense is He his son?" And the great crowd enjoyed listening to Him. NIV “how then can he be his son”

5) He again emphasized He was the Messiah when before the High Priest following His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. (Mk. 14:61, 62).

MAR 14:61 But He kept silent, and made no answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

MAR 14:62 And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

6) He now has “all authority in heaven and on earth.” (Matt. 28:18). See Jn. 17:2. He is the One who received absolute and “everlasting dominion” from “the Ancient of Days.” (Dan. 7:13, 14).

DAN 7:13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

DAN 7:14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

7) He will reign until the time He comes again to judge the world and take His followers home to be with God. (2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

8) He will then turn the kingdom back to His Father. (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

1CO 15:24 then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

1CO 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

1CO 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

1CO 15:27 For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

1CO 15:28 And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.

**COL 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

1. "Set your mind on the things above" - Lit. "the things above mind you"
  - a. Their thoughts should be primarily on the Lord and how to please Him - not on the things of this world
  - b. They should be preparing themselves to be with the Lord.
    - 1) Time on earth is very short for each of us. (Jas. 4:14).
    - 2) Eternity has no end.
  - c. They should realize their real home was heaven. (Matt. 5:12; Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Pet. 1:4).
  - d. Jesus taught we should lay up our treasures in heaven. (Matt. 6:19-21).

MAT 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

MAT 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

MAT 6:21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

2. "not on the things that are on earth"
  - a. Most people, including many Christians, have their minds fixed on earthly things.
  - b. Most people struggle with materialism and seek to find happiness by accumulating more and more things.
    - 1) The more they get the more they want.
    - 2) It is not wrong to have material things, but this must not be the priority of life.
    - 3) We are to share what we have with others. (1 Tim. 6:17, 18).

1TI 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

1TI 6:18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

- c. It is foolish to focus on material things because all material things must be left behind. (1 Tim. 6:7).

1TI 6:7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

- d. This is foolish because material things will not help us in heaven and may keep us out of heaven. (1 Tim. 6:10).

1TI 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

- e. Our mind set should be that of pleasing God.

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