

# The MYSTERY

Hidden for Ages

## Is Now REVEALED

*A Study of the Book of Colossians*

LESSON 15

This Week's Passage:

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on 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 now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

### **Memory Verse: Colossians 2:13**

<sup>13</sup> *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,*


O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.

Helen Howarth Lemmel

Last week we learned that because of our death with Christ we have been set free from worldly regulations, religious systems, and the earthly things we look to to cure our "soul's sickness."<sup>1</sup> Paul has made clear that these are ineffective. This week Paul will exhort the Colossians to change their focus.

**Day One: Read Colossians 1—3, noticing all the things that God has done for us through Christ.**

1. What does Paul mean when he says "you have been raised with Christ" (v. 1)? (Rom. 6:8–14;  \* Eph. 2:1–5)
2. What is necessary before we are raised with Christ? (Rom. 6:2–7)

## Day Two: Read Colossians 3:1–4.

3. What does Paul exhort us to do (and not do) **because** we have been raised with Christ? (vv. 1b–2)
4. What does the phrase “seated at the right hand of God” (v. 1) tell us about Christ? (Acts 2:33; 5:31; Eph. 1:19b–23; Heb. 1:3–4)
5. What does it mean to set your heart and mind on things above? (2 Cor. 4:18; 5:7; Heb. 12:2–3; 1 Pet. 1:3–9)
6. How does setting your heart and mind on things above impact you even if your circumstances don’t change?
7. In the Greek, this passage emphasizes our continual need to shift our focus to things above. Why do we need to continually refocus? (Try to think of some verses that will help you answer this question.)

## Day Three: Read Colossians 3:1–4.

8. Paul says, “you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God” (v. 3).
  - a. To what did the Colossians (and we who believe) die? (Gal. 2:20; 5:24)

- b. What does it mean that your “life is now hidden with Christ in God” (v. 3)? (Jn. 10:28–29; 11:25–26; 2 Cor. 4:7, 16–18)

“The real life of the Christian, the true life in the Spirit is not something we live out in some distant realm, detached from and unconnected with the dirt and sweat and frustrations of trying to cope with other fallen folk and our own obligations to them.... The real, true, spiritual life of the Christian is right here, right now, empowered by the exalted Christ with whom we are forever identified. People who are fixated on things above should, more than all others, positively influence life in the here and now. Paul’s desire is that we bring to bear on the present the power of the future. He is laboring to raise up people whose heavenly mindset yields a redemptive, earthly impact for the glory of God.”<sup>2</sup>

9. Consider the quotation above. How does focusing on things above enable you to engage in a healthier and more wholehearted way with the people and things in your life?

### **Day Four: Read Colossians 3:1–4.**

10. Consider the phrase “Christ, who is your life” (v. 4) and look at John 10:10. How is the life we have from Christ described?
11. How does having Christ as your life change the way you view everything else? (Phil. 3:7–9)
12. What promise do we read in Colossians 3:4?

What do the following verses say this time will be like?

1 Cor. 15:51–57

1 Jn. 3:2

Rev. 21:1–7

Rev. 21:22–22:5

## Day Five: Read Colossians 1—4.

Christ's prayer for all who believe is "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world" (Jn. 17:21–24).

Christ's desire is for us to share in his glory forever! Set your heart and mind on this truth today.

You may want to use this song to help reorient your heart and mind. (If you wish, you can listen to it on YouTube.)

### ***Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus (Look Up)***<sup>3</sup>

Oh weary mind, oh troubled soul  
All the broken pieces that You hold  
Turn them over, give them up  
And then watch what Jesus does  
Oh heavy heart, oh heavy load  
Lay it down and let it go  
Leave your broken yesterdays  
In the open arms of grace

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in his wonderful face  
And watch the world grow dim  
Standing next to Him  
In the light of His glory and grace

Oh frozen hope, oh broken dreams  
Just like a boat tossed on the raging seas  
You will walk on waves again  
When you have set your gaze on Him

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in his wonderful face  
And watch the world grow dim  
Standing next to Him  
In the light of His glory and grace

So look up, look up  
This is a song about the morning after a long night  
So look up, look up  
This is a song about believing  
It's gonna be alright, when you

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in his wonderful face  
I want to grow dim  
Standing next to Him  
In the light of His glory and grace  
So look up, look up  
So look up, look up

\*📖 Indicates verses for further study

<sup>1</sup> William Hendriksen, *Philippians, Colossians and Philemon* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985), 139.

<sup>2</sup> Sam Storms, *The Hope of Glory: 100 Daily Meditations on Colossians* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2007), 216-217.

<sup>3</sup> *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (Look Up)*; Chris Stevens | Helen H. Lemmel | Matt Maher | Nichole Nordeman; © 2013 Birdboy Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Meaux Mercy (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Moody Producer Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Valley Of Songs Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); CCLI Song # 6535090; CCLI License # 197929