“Responsibility of Spiritual Formation in the Christian Life”

Colossians 3:1-4 Sunday February 11, 2024

## INTRODUCTION READ Colossians 3:1-24 [Pew Bible pg. 926]

“If you read history you will find that the Christians begin the most for the present world are just the ones that thought the most of the next . . .”

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Sufficiency of The Person and Work of Christ in All Matters Experienced

Relationship With Christ **Colossians 3:1-4, 11,15-17, 24; 4:7, 9, 11-12**

“Christ . . .Christ is all and in all . . . all in the Name of the Lord Jesus . . .He Is Lord of My Life & Lord of My Christian Ministry Chapters Three & Four

### Pray to See Christ More Clearly (Doctrine) . . . Love Christ More Dearly (Devotion)

###  . . . Follow Christ More Nearly (Duty) READ 1:18 and 3:17

1. Reality of Spiritual Life in Christ For Our Spiritual Formation

“Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ . . .”

 “raise to life together with” not a question but a true condition “since”

 relationship with Him, in Him, union with Christ 2:12-14, 20

1. Present Activity of Spiritual Formation in What You Are Seeking 3:1

 Our Present Christian Seeking Because of Heavenly Realities

“. . . keep seeking the things above . . .” COMMAND

action that should be personal, present, continuous

preoccupation with heavenly realities which direct earthly responsibilities

 remember 1:3-5 pursuits in my life, directions in this life

again in contrast to the things which people seeking after here on earth

“ . . . where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” 8x in NT

position of Exalted Christ with God the Father in Heaven

remember 1:15-18

Direction in This Christian Life Because of where Christ Jesus Is

1. Present Activity of Spiritual Formation in How You Are Thinking 3:2

 Our Present Christian Thinking About Heavenly Things

“Set your mind on the things above . . .” COMMAND

 “. . . not on the things that are on earth.” Cf. 2:8, 20

again action that should be personal, present, continuous

“to keep on giving serious consideration to something—‘keep thinking about”

 fix one’s attention on things above

Not just cross our minds but dominate our thinking more heavenly minded

1. Reality of Promised Glory With Christ In Spiritual Formation 3:3-4

What Is Yours in Christ Now in Your Life

“For you have died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.”

past completed action with present effects past action with present ongoing results

“cause to be safe and protected” cf. 2:20 reasons for our seeking and thinking

The assurance & security of the believer in Christ John 10:28-30 Philippians 1:6

What Will Be Ours Because He Is Our Life

“When Christ, who is our life, is manifested . . .”

“. . . then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.” Cf. 1:27

Motivation for Living the Christian Life Because of Promised Future Glory

READ Philippians 3:19-21

CONCLUSION Reality of Spiritual Life and Promised Glory

1. Reality of Spiritual Life in Christ With My Present Christian Activity
2. Present Christian Habits of Thinking About Christ in Heaven
3. Give More Attention To The Things Above With All of Your Things on Earth
4. Action in This Life as A Christian Because Christ Jesus Is My Life
5. Reason for Living the Present Christian Life Is Promised Future Glory