

## **“Dead, But Alive”**

### **Colossians 3: 1 – 3**

Such is the union between Christ and His people, that in virtue of His death and their faith in His finished work on the cross, they become dead to sin and in virtue of His resurrection they rise to spiritual life. Therefore, as Christ now lives in heaven, His people should live for heaven. We understand this from verse 1 “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.” Seek things above as objects of pursuit and affection and strive to secure them. Since Christ is there, and since He is the object of the Christian’s supreme attachment, we should fix our affections on heavenly things and seek to be prepared to dwell there with Him.

Verse 2 “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” Set your mind, “think of” things that pertain to the heavenly realm. Our thoughts should be occupied about the things where Christ now dwells, where our great interests are and where our final home is to be. Since we are raised from the death of sin and are made to live anew, the great object of our contemplation should be the heavenly world, rather than the things on this earth which are temporal and fleeting.

Verse 3 “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” The idea is that as Christ became literally dead and lay in the tomb for three days, so we, in virtue of our connection with Him, have become dead to sin, worldly influences, pleasures, and ambitions so these things should have no power over us. So, the Christian is therefore dead to one class of objects and alive to another. Our life is “hidden with Christ in God”; hid or concealed in a place of eternal security.

Eternal life is an invaluable jewel or treasure which is laid up with Christ in heaven where God is. It is safely deposited as it is with the Redeemer. As the Apostle Paul sums this up so well in 2 Timothy 1:12 “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to him until that day.” The true condition of the Christian is that, he is “dead” to this world, but he has the hope of immortal life beyond.

Consider: When others look at me, they see .....