

**Colossians - Chapter 3**  
**“Living Like an Ambassador from Heaven”**  
**Colossians 3:1-2**

**Introduction:**

1. Paul is now going to take these believers from the doctrinal to the practical.
2. Sound doctrine **should** affect the way we live out our daily lives. In **Titus 2:10**, Paul talked about adorning the doctrine of God by our godly actions. We beautify our beliefs when our lives demonstrate the doctrine we hold to.
3. The pagan religious systems of Paul’s day were known for their lack of morality. There was no connection between their religion and their behavior. It was totally acceptable to perform religious rituals and then partake in wicked and deviant behavior.
4. The Christian faith brought with it something new – a connection between beliefs and behavior. Example: **1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 1 Peter 4:3-4**
5. In Colossians 3-4, as the saying goes, “The rubber is going to meet the road.” Paul will admonish this local assembly in practical matters of their everyday living.
6. He will deal with issues like love, forgiveness, music, marriage, family relationships, work relationships, prayer, etc.

**Verse 1**

1. Right away, Paul uses as his basis for godly behavior the believer’s position in Christ.
2. When Paul says, “*If ye then be risen with Christ...*,” he isn’t questioning the fact that this is true. He is using a common manner of speech.
  - Example: I might say to Deniece, “If you’re my wife, you should love me more than any other man.”
  - Example: A coach may say to a football player, “If you’re a football player, you can’t be afraid to hit that guy and make a tackle.”
  - When we use the word “if,” we are drawing an obvious conclusion. We are saying, “This fact is true, therefore this **should** be true also.”
3. We know where Christ is. Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. **Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 10:12**
4. Paul already established the fact in 2:12-13, that the believer in Christ was baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit the moment he believed on Christ. We received Christ’s resurrection life. We were quickened (made alive) together with Him (Christ).
5. So, Paul is drawing an obvious conclusion. **If** we now possess Christ’s life, and **if** Christ is in heaven, then we **should** be seeking those things which are above. This only makes logical sense. We are seated with Him already in heavenly places.  
**Ephesians 2:6**

6. Why would we want to mess around in earthly religious systems that diminish Christ, or seek for earthly mystical experiences, or get consumed with earthly, man-made traditions and religious rules?
7. Our lives should be consumed with one thing – Jesus Christ. This brings us to the next verse.

## Verse 2

1. This is a short verse, but a very powerful reminder for the child of God. It is so easy to get caught up in the things of this earth and lose our eternal, heavenly perspective.
  - The word “affection” is dealing with your heart and mind – your inner being.
2. It is so easy to fall in love with the things of this earth and get a mindset that we are going to live here forever. Paul warned Timothy that a good soldier for Christ cannot get entangled with the affairs of this life. **2 Timothy 2:4**
  - A soldier recognizes that he is on a mission on foreign soil and certainly is not going to develop a deep affection for enemy territory.
  - We are ambassadors for Christ on this earth and we are on a mission, but heaven is our home.
3. The believer has been raised up with Christ and has been seated in heavenly places. Our physical life on earth is temporary; our spiritual life in heaven is eternal.
4. Why would we invest our energy and resources into this earth when it is just a temporary stopover? This is what Paul is emphasizing. Our position in Christ should affect our attitudes and actions here on earth as we pass through.
  - Obviously, we have to live and function on planet earth for a short time. This means we have to work, make money, pay bills, put gas in the car, shop for groceries, etc.
5. But when Paul admonishes believers to set their affection on things above, here is what he means:
  - As we live our everyday lives, we truly seek Christ in everything we do and seek to honor Him first and foremost.
  - It also means that we look at everything on earth through the lens of an eternal perspective. We look at things from heaven’s point of view, not Satan’s world system.
  - We live our lives on earth as ambassadors from heaven. As Paul said, we live as lights “*in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.*”  
**Philippians 2:15**
6. Here is the point: Your position in Christ should affect everything about you here on earth – your priorities, your stewardship, your time, your attitudes, your actions, etc. This is what it means to set your affection on things above.
  - Our eternal life, eternal blessings, and eternal rewards weigh heavily on our minds as we pass through this earth. We never lose sight of what is really important.