

Series: The Believer's Place in a Wicked World
"Where is Your Heart?"
Colossians 3:1-4

Introduction:

1. Bible Christianity is different than all of the other religions of the world.
2. In religion, the followers are trying desperately to appease a wrathful God through religious acts, rituals, and observances. They are trying to earn God's forgiveness.
 - They never know when they've done enough, so they therefore keep working and working, hoping to gain forgiveness of their sins.
3. In the gospel of Christ, it is not **man** doing something for God, but **God** reaching out to man. The believing sinner is saved and forgiven instantaneously based on the finished and completed work of Jesus Christ.
4. God hasn't placed a performance system on our necks to try to gain His grace and favor. God says, "I'm going to give you total forgiveness, grace, mercy, favor, and all spiritual blessings **up front** the moment you, by faith, trust my Son."
5. Do you know what Paul says our response should be to that incredible grace?
Colossians 3:1-2 - Our affection, our total heart should be set upon Christ (Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus. The things of earth should grow strangely dim.) Why is this?

Christ has delivered us from our past identity.

1. According to verse 3 I have died and been resurrected. How did I die?
Galatians 2:20
 - God placed us in Christ the moment we trusted Him. His history is now our history. Romans 6 teaches that we are dead and buried with Him.
2. All of us were at one time part of Satan's kingdom of darkness. The Satanic system of wickedness and evil fills and controls this earth right now. The Bible refers to this as "the world."
 - Satan is called the god of this world. **2 Corinthians 4:4**
 - The Satanic policy of evil is rampant on this earth. It began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve took that fatal step from innocence to sin.
 - Satan's world system of rebellion against God was put in place and continues to this day. **Ephesians 6:12; 1 John 5:19**
 - This Satanic world system is racing 100 mph towards judgment and condemnation. **1 John 2:15-17; 2 Peter 3:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
3. You and I were a part of this world system. We were walking hand in hand with it. Our identity was found in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
 - The spirit of Satan's world system was working in us. Our identity was **of this world**. **Ephesians 2:2**
4. The moment we trusted Christ to save us, God changed all of that. God's Spirit placed us into Christ and delivered us from this world system (**Galatians 1:4**) and the wrath to come.

5. Because I am crucified with Christ, this means that I am dead to Satan's world system, and it is dead to me. The only way **out** of this Satanic, condemned world system was death, and God accomplished that by placing us in His Son.
6. While I **physically** have to live in this world, I am spiritually dead to it. I am no longer a part of it. A separation has occurred. **Galatians 6:14**

Christ has provided for us a new position.

1. We were crucified and buried with Christ, ending any identity with this satanic world system. But wait a minute - it gets better.
2. **Colossians 3:3** says, "*For ye are dead, and your life...*" Remember, God placed us in Christ. Christ died and put away sin, but what did He do three days later? The Bible says we are risen with Him! **Colossians 3:1** We are dead to this world system, but we have life. **Galatians 2:20**
3. The spirit of this world was operative **in us** before salvation, but now the Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead is alive **in us**. **Romans 6:11, 8:11; 1 Corinthians 2:12**
4. By virtue of your death with Christ, you are delivered from Satan's worldly kingdom, but by virtue of your resurrection with Christ, you have been resurrected into a new kingdom. **Colossians 1:13** In fact, you're already seated there. **Ephesians 2:6**
 - You also have a new title to go along with this new position - **saint!** **Colossians 1:12**
 - When you were part of the satanic world system, your title was **sinner**. Now **1 Corinthians 1:2** says you are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be a saint.
5. Through His atoning death, the sin issue was dealt with in your life and you were forgiven and cleansed and you died to this world system (Satan's kingdom). **Colossians 1:14**
6. But through His resurrection, God has placed His life in you and raised you up to dwell in a new heavenly kingdom (Christ's kingdom).

Christ has insured for us a glorious future.

1. We are physically in Satan's world system, but we are not a part of it. We are the proverbial "duck out of water." Of course the reason for this is so someone can be here to tell others how to escape Satan's world system.
2. But one day it will all be over and Christ shall appear. **Colossians 3:4** When this happens, Paul says that we will appear with Him in glory. We will literally share in the glorification of Jesus Christ in eternity. **Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17**
3. We will be living demonstrations of His grace in the ages to come as we radiate His glory and carry on the business of heaven. **Ephesians 2:7**

In Conclusion:

1. Here is an obvious question: If Christ has delivered me from this present evil world, resurrected me into His glorious kingdom, given me a glorious future, why would my affection be for Satan's world system?

2. When a Christian loves the world, wants to be like the world, lives like this world is his home, this is the ultimate contradiction. What has Satan and his world system done for you?
3. We are not part of this kingdom. You are living for a kingdom you no longer belong to. Our inheritance lies in the heavenly kingdom of Jesus Christ.
4. Satan wants to capture your heart (your affection) with the pleasures his worldly kingdom can offer you.
5. But God lovingly calls out to you, "*If ye then be risen with...*" **Colossians 3:1-2**
6. Will you make a decision today that your #1 desire will be to set your affection on Christ?