

Message Information for: 4/12/20

Series: Colossians

Title: "Raised with Christ"

Text: Colossians 3:1-4

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1:4-8 ESV

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Outline:

- 1. Condition:** You must **DIE** and be **RAISED** with Christ, vv. 1, 3 (*cf. Mark 14:61-62; John 3:3-8; 11:25; Acts 1:38-39; Romans 6:1-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:19-20; Ephesians 1:18-23; Philippians 1:21*).
- 2. Command:** You must set your **DESIRES & THOUGHTS** with Christ, vv. 1-2 (*cf. Matthew 6:19, 33; 16:23 Phil. 3:10, 19; 1 Peter 1:13; 1 John 2:15; Revelation 22:14*).
- 3. Confidence:** You will be **GLORIFIED** with Christ when He **RETURNS**, vv. 3, 4 (*cf. Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:12-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 1 John 3:2; Rev. 1:7; 22:7, 20*).

Family Time:

Read Matthew 28:1-10 and Luke 24:1-12. Make a list of the characters in the passages. How would you feel if you were in the shoes of each one? Why would you feel that way? Why did the angel say to the women "Do not be afraid?" Was there anyone who should have been afraid by the fact that Jesus rose (*cf. Rev. 1:4-8*)? Who does not need to be afraid (*cf. Col. 3:1-4*)?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. In order to be “raised with Christ” (Col. 1:1-3) what has to die (cf. Romans 6:1-14)? How would you explain that to a person who does not know Christian theology, is not familiar with the Bible, and has a hard time understanding “Christianese?” Are there any people in your circle of influence who need to hear that explanation from you?
2. What does it mean to set your desires and thoughts with Christ? For help, read the cross references in pt. 2 above. It has been said that people can be so “heavenly minded that they’re no earthly good.” What does that phrase mean and is it true? When your desires and thoughts have been with Christ, has that made you more “earthly good,” or less? Why?
3. Along with the promise that the risen Jesus will return, we are also given the promise that we will appear with him in glory (Col. 3:4). Using the cross-references in pt. 3 above, what does it mean that we will appear with him in glory? How does that confidence influence how we live today with regard to the treasures, temptations, and trials of today?
4. Read Acts 2:14-41 (note the context). Dissect Peter’s sermon. What is Peter’s main point? What truths does he declare and what promises does he offer? What place does the Resurrection have in his message? If the Resurrection was removed from his message, what would be left? With that in mind, what are some practical ways that our lives and words should preach the importance of the Resurrection on a daily basis?

NEXT WEEK: Living By Faith Under Threat, Habakkuk