

Seeking the Things Which Are Above

[W]e shall consider what it means to seek the things above and to set our mind on them. Christ has been waiting for centuries to see an adequate response to His heavenly ministry. He wants to gain a kingdom, a realm in which He can do whatever He wills without any hindrance. For this to happen, we need to see **who and what Christ is** in His heavenly ministry, **what He wants to accomplish on the earth** as this age is coming to a close, and how we ourselves in our Christian life and church life have been a limitation to Him in what He wants to do. He wants to advance by working in us so that we who limit Him and who are a limitation to Him, we would by His grace become those who **release Him**, **enable Him**, and **give Him the way to move** wherever He wants to move on earth, and to do whatever He wills to accomplish all that is on His heart.

Seeking the things which are above is **a territory largely unknown to us**. The things above are Christ in His heavenly ministry with His activities, and our response to Him. The Lord cares about every matter, every church, every person, and every situation; He is omniscient, He is God, **yet** He's also a man, full of feeling. Since we have been raised with Christ, we are a new creation in a new realm; therefore, we should seek the things which are above, and set our mind on these things. Christ was raised by God and now He is at the right hand of God in His ascension (Rom. 8:34); the right hand of God is the first place of honor, the preeminence. God has given the preeminence and the highest honor in the universe to Christ – He is in the highest heaven, holding the highest position at God's right hand.

God didn't only save us from the position of death but He also seated us with Christ in the heavenlies; when we believed into Christ, we were seated with Him in the highest place in the universe, and **here we can and should set our mind on the things above**, the things that relate to the ascended Christ. As believers in Christ we do not merely have a past Christ (a Christ who lived, worked, died, and resurrected in the past) or a future Christ (a Christ that will return at one point in the future and we will be with Him); **our Christ is present and living**, and He is in His heavenly ministry doing many things today. If we are to cooperate with Christ in His heavenly ministry, we need to realize that this One is now not only on earth but even more in the heavenlies, in the third heavens; He has been ascended by God to the highest position in the universe, and He is sitting at the right hand of God (Col. 3:1).

Furthermore, we also were raised together with Christ – we all, the believers in Christ, were raised together with Christ – and seated with Him in the heavenlies; therefore, we should seek the things which are above, where the heavenly Christ is. **Paul commands us: seek the things above!** We need to set our mind on the things which are above and not on the things which are on the earth. Christ is now at the right hand of God, having the preeminence, the first place of honor; God has given Christ the highest honor in the entire universe, and we are in Christ, one with Christ in spirit. Therefore, **on the one hand**, we need to call on the name of the Lord to be saved in His life and to enthrone Him in our being, and **on the other hand**, we need to realize that we are where He is: we are in the heavenlies with Him.

Here, in the heavenlies, Christ is the Heavenly and Ascended One, and He is **very busy**. Some of the activities He is involved in, according to the New Testament, are: He is the high priest according to the order of Melchizedek, He always lives to intercede for us, He bears us before the face of God, he is the great Shepherd of the sheep, He has a heavenly ministry of transmitting all he is into us, and He is the administrator in God's eternal economy.

Our Christ in the heavens today is much more busy and working than when He was on earth, and we need to live one spirit with Him to cooperate with Him in His heavenly ministry.

Realizing and Experiencing in Spirit that God Seated us with Christ in the Heavenlies

By believing into Christ we are positioned under the dispensing of the Triune God to enjoy Him; the processed Triune God dispenses Himself into us to work Himself into us as grace and save us to the uttermost. Once we receive such a divine transmission by enjoying the Lord, we are made alive, we are raised up out of any death, and we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies. In seeking the things which are above we first need to have light on Eph. 2:5-6 to realize that in Christ and with Christ we are seated in the heavenlies. Then we need to exercise our spirit to substantiate this fact, realizing that is only by faith that we can enter into the experience of this.

Only Christ as the Head of the Body knows how many complications have arisen in the church and in our life because of an earthly view of the situations, bound by culture, space, and time. What are the things which are above spoken of by Paul in Col. 3:1-2? It will take much time and prayer for us to realize and apprehend what Christ is doing today in the heavenlies, but we need to know that the things which are above are the things which are in the heavens, in contrast to the things which are on the earth. The things which are above include the ascended Christ and all things related to Him. As we realize that God has made us with Christ, raising us together with Him and seating us together with Him in the heavenlies, we need to look around and see the ascended Christ and all the things related to Him. It is not unfair to say concerning genuine believers in Christ in their basic faith that they mainly have a past Christ, a Christ who did many things while He was on earth, and also they have a future Christ, a Christ whom they wait to return soon. *But what do the believers know of the present Christ? What is the Lord Jesus doing right now?*

He was ascended and He's in ascension ministering for two thousand years. The Apostle Paul was one who sought these things, was conscious of these things, and lived in the reality of these things through the transmission of the ascended Christ....Praise the Lord, in His ascension Jesus was made by God both Lord and Christ – He is Lord of all and the Possessor of all, and He carries out God's economy to fulfill God's purpose!

In order for us as believers in Christ to seek the things which are above and set our mind on them (Col. 3:1-2), we need to experience the dividing of our soul from our spirit (Heb. 4:12) and we need to turn to our spirit. All the things related to God and His economy are in spirit; when we are in our spirit, we are in heaven, and we mind the things which are above, but when we're not in our spirit, we mind the things which are on earth. When we call on the name of the Lord, we are in spirit, we enthrone Him in our being, and we see the things in the heaven and appreciate the things related to the ascended Christ.

If we don't turn to our spirit and call on the name of the Lord, many of the things related to Christ in His heavenly ministry seem abstract and distant to us, but when we call on the name of the Lord and turn to our spirit, we receive the divine transmission from the throne of God to our spirit. Our spirit is mingled with the divine Spirit, and there's a transmission taking place from Christ in heaven to us on earth by means of the all-inclusive Spirit in our spirit. The transmitting end is the throne of God in heaven, and our spirit is the receiving end.

Lord Jesus, save us from being soulish men who don't exercise their spirit and who don't live in the spirit. May we experience the dividing of our soul from our spirit through the exercise of our spirit so that we may seek the things which are above and set our mind on them! Amen, Lord, may the riches of Christ's heavenly ministry be transmitted into us to transform us and constitute us with Christ! Amen! We lift up our eyes and set our mind on the wonderful and excellent things above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God! (Ministry of the Word)