

**Held Together:
The Focus that Holds It All Together
Colossians 3:1-4**

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Text Introduction: We are working our way through the book of Colossians. A key phrase of Colossians comes in Colossians 1:17, “And by Him all things hold together.” I love this phrase. This phrase speaks to the preeminence of Jesus. He is all things. If He is all things, He must be first place in my life.

We have now moved on to the application section of this letter.

Text: So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God. ⁴When the Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Introduction: I suspect that somewhere along life’s way you have heard something to the effect of, “He is so heavenly minded that he is of no earthly good.” I might know the attempt of what is trying to be said here, but that kind of statement is in clear contradiction to the text before us today. We are, in fact, to “seek what is above” and even “set our minds on what is above.”

C.S. Lewis said in his classic work, *Mere Christianity*, “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think about the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’; aim at earth and you will get neither.”

We have examined in Colossians the theology of Colossians. Christ is the one who holds all things together. We have now turned to the application of that theology. What difference do these truths about Christ make in our lives on a daily basis?

I have heard before the idea of a one point sermon. The preacher makes the point and then through story upon story and principle upon principle hammers away at that one point. The Apostle Paul is doing that here in this letter to the Colossians. Having established Christ theologically as the one who is above all things, he presses the point that He is to be above all things in our lives. We will keep hammering that point home for the next weeks because after all this is how Christ holds us together.

So, let me give you the big idea of this text and then expound upon it a bit.

The Big Idea: A theology that believes that Christ is pre-eminent in all things leads to seeking the priorities of God in all things which is accomplished by the power of God working in us and through us.

Pre-eminent In all Things

Colossians 1:15-20 is the basis for everything that follows in the application. This is the basis for the instruction to seek Him. The ethical and moral instructions that are about to follow in the rest of this letter are not hard to follow if you theologically accept that He is above all things. If you doubt that or fundamentally reject that, you are going to struggle greatly with the ethical and moral callings of the Gospel. It all starts here!

Priorities of God

So, this theology that believes that Christ is pre-eminent in all things leads to seeking the priorities of God in all things. This is exactly what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things will be added unto you." It's what Lewis said, "Aim at Heaven and you will get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you will get neither."

So, we seek His kingdom. We set our minds on these things? What have you set your mind? Where have you set your affections? Where have you set your priorities?

We acknowledge that we need help, and we get that help in the form of the power of God.

Power of God

Here in this passage, we get at least these four reassurances of the power of God.

- Resurrection of Christ
- Residence of Christ

He is at once resident in Heaven and resident in your heart.

- Resources of Christ

You are hidden in Him. He is your life. Back in 1:27, He is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." He is "Christ in you." It's what Paul meant when he wrote to the Galatians as recorded in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

- Revelation of Christ

And Christ will be revealed. There is nothing that ought to so alter our present behavior than the contemplation and realization of His imminent coming again.

All 4 of these ideas reveal his power!

So What?

Where is your focus?

Is your focus on fellowship with God or friendship with the world?

Consider 2:20 and 3:5.

Johnathan Edwards, preacher of the 1700's, and famous for his sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, " gave us this prayer to pray:

"Stamp eternity on my eyeballs!"