

SETTING OUR AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE – LESSON THREE

COLOSSIANS 1:9-16; 3:1-3

The apostle Paul wrote, “*If ye then be risen with Christ (saved), seek those things which are above (eternal), where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection (your love and devotion) on things above (eternal things), not on the things of this earth*” (**Colossians 3:2**). Not being of this world means we should be “*dead*” to all of its attractions, allurements, and ambitions. In other words, we should “*set our affection on things above.*” The word “seek” in 3:1, according to the *Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language*, means “To go in search or quest of; to look for; to search for by going from place to place; to make search or inquiry.”

- Can it be said of us that we are “searching and looking for” those things which are above?
- Have we “set our affection” (singular, not plural) on things above?

Yes, we live in the world, we are sent to the world as missionaries and ambassadors, but we are dead to the things of this world. The apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, makes it clear that for those of us who profess to be saved (“risen with Christ”), must “*seek those things which are above.*” This command, to “seek those things which are above,” as found in **Colossians 3**, is not an **option** for the true believer, this is an **obligation**.

The Bible and church history are filled with stories of men and women who set their affections on things above and “lived in the light of eternity”:

- Abraham, “looked for a city whose Builder and Maker was God” (Hebrews 11:8-10).
- Moses “refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter” and he chose “rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” He esteemed “the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of reward.” (Hebrews 11:24-27).
- Isaiah, “saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up” (Isaiah 6:1) and because of it surrendered himself to be purged and to be sent out to those who needed to hear the Word of God.
- The three Hebrew children were willing to be burned in a Babylonian furnace because they refused to bow to the Babylonian idol (Daniel chapter 3).
- Daniel was willing to be thrown in a lion’s den because he refused to stop praying to the God of heaven, in spite of the mandated law of the land (Daniel chapter 6).
- All of the apostles, but John, were martyred for their faith.
- William Borden gave up his inheritance, as the son of a wealthy dairy tycoon to become a missionary.
- CT Studd, not only gave up his family inheritance, but gave up his career as a professional cricket player to go to the mission field.
- Robert Jafree sold himself into slavery to reach the slaves for Christ.

There are basically two things that must happen if we are going to set our affection on things above:

- We Must **Saturate** Ourselves with the Word (Jos. 1:7-9; Psa. 1:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:15-17).
- We Must **Separate** Ourselves from the World (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Js. 4:4; 1 John 2:15)