“Your Life is Hidden with Christ in God”
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“For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1)

Read Colossians 3:1-4

This is perhaps one of the most startling, liberating, and ‘take your breath away’ passages in the entire New Testament. Colossians 3:1-4 expands on 1:27, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” It is equally an ongoing thought that began in 2:12-15. For Paul, the essence of the Christian life is who we are in Christ and what He is for us.

Paul’s conclusions, beginning in 3:1, are based on immutable truths. The believer has died with Christ, was buried, and now was raised together with Him in the heavens. Based on all the preceding truths, we are called on to take certain action steps. Although there are multiple voices calling out to us as to the answer for our existence, there is only one voice we are to heed. God’s voice pierces the darkness and confusion of human flesh. His ways are above our ways, but His ways are always best.

There is always a danger of oversimplifying the Christian life and reducing it to something other than what is true. In our text we are utilizing the similarity between Romans 6:1ff and what we have here.

I have chosen to place these truths in three progressive categories only for the purpose of assimilation and presentation. Regardless as to how we lay them out, they are what Paul would have us know. This truth is the essence of the Christian life. Consider for just a moment the simplicity of what is stated.

Step #1 - Know
• You have died with Christ
• You have been raised with Christ

Step #2 – Consider
• Your life is hidden with Christ in God
• Christ is your life

Step #3 - Present
• Positive action step –
  – Keep seeking the things above; set your mind on things above
• Negative action step -
  – Not on the things that are on earth; consider the members of your earthly body as dead to . . . (3:2b, 5).

Continued on the other side...
Because of who you are, this is what you are to do. Notice how action reflects position. The one reflects the other. The one flows from the other. The one infects and changes the other.

**The flow is only one way.** My position changes my performance. My performance cannot change my position. There is nothing you can do to create the “one flesh” union with Christ. This marriage rests solely in who God is and what He does. He acts; we receive. Because He causes this “one flesh” union to take place, my life is now hidden with Christ in God. This hiding is the “one flesh” union. Because my life is now hidden with Christ in God, I am to seek heavenly things and turn from earthly things. This turning from is parallel to the invitation in 3:5 to kill the works of the flesh. Because He killed, we can kill. I can, because He does. Apart from this action on His part, we are helpless “in stopping the indulgence of the flesh” (2:23). Because this is true I have nothing, absolutely nothing, to boast in.

In all of this, what is the bottom line? We see it in verse 11, “Christ is all, and in all.” Everything we experience/encounter in life is but a shadow of Him. Everything is by Him, through Him and for Him (1:16). “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (1:17). Nothing we know falls outside of this thought. All our life and the complexity of it are only shadows of a larger reality.

The life we live in our flesh is hidden with Christ in God. Jesus Christ is our life. I cannot explain it. The language I employ is reflected in Romans 7:1ff of a marriage to Him so that our union with Him is “one flesh.” It is a mystery in many ways, but I can believe it. I will believe the Scripture even when life crashes all around me. I will believe God even when despair washes over me.

How does this affect the way you understand yourself? How does this affect the way you understand others and relate to them? Remember this truth is being denied by those who have or are attempting to infiltrate the church in Colossae. When writing the Story, God determined that His offspring would be as He is. Who they are is sourced solely in who God is and what God does. May this truth fortify us for the journey ahead and may our lives be lived giving Him all the glory, Amen.

Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in the Storyline of the Bible. She is determined by design to have a God-centered, Christ-exalting worship; a Word-centered teaching focused on personal discipleship through intentional and systematic instruction; a Global-impacting mission that resolves to be a church planting church; and a Grace-based fellowship where disciples are invited to live under a reigning grace characterized by a Gospel-driven sanctification that celebrates a divine monergism to the Christian life.