



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: Living the Christian Life**

**Date: June 23, 2024**

**Scripture Text: Colossians 3:1-4**

### **Notes:**

The Apostle Paul transitions from chapter 2 where he addressed the false teachings the Colossian Christians were exposed to and moves on to chapter 3 where he starts his discussion on what it looks like to live the Christian life. He raises issues in chapter 2 of Christians who had died with Christ yet were still submitting themselves to the ways of the world (2:20). In chapter 3 he makes the point that to be raised with Christ is to focus on that which is above (eternal things). It is only by doing so that we, as Christians, can live effective and victorious lives for Christ. Let us look at 3 keys to living the Christian life.

#### **I. Fix Our Eyes on Christ (Colossians 3:1-2)**

“Therefore” indicates a transition, from avoiding false teaching in chapter 2 to what it looks like to practically live the Christian life. Paul gives two commands in this passage, “Keep seeking” and “set your mind”. The first command denotes a continual action or pursuit. The second command describes a high degree of intentionality to where your attention lies. The object of both commands is “the things above”. All too often we can get distracted by our circumstances (“the things that are on earth”). It’s not that we don’t deal with our circumstances, but we need to do so with an eternal perspective.

- What does the term ‘eternal perspective’ mean?
- What are examples of regular activities (i.e. work, grocery shopping, eating out, church)?
  - What does it look like to approach them with an earthly perspective?
  - How can you engage them with an eternal perspective?
- What does it mean to ‘live intentionally’?
- How can going through your day on ‘autopilot’ hinder a focus on “the things above”?

#### **II. Remember Your Position in Christ (Colossians 3:3)**

As a Christian, your life is “hidden with Christ in God”. “Hidden” indicates that God fully completed the action in the past with permanent results. Although our circumstances may be difficult at times, there is nothing we encounter that hasn’t been allowed and is known by God. He is aware of our circumstances and is in control. We must trust Him with our circumstances if we are to keep seeking the things above. It is through these tough circumstances that we learn about and experience Him, and it gives us the opportunity to make Him known to others.



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- List examples of challenging circumstances.
  - How would the world respond to these circumstances?
  - How should the Christian?
- How can we experience God through our circumstances (both in good times and bad)?
- How can we make Him known to others in our circumstances?
- How does how we respond to our circumstances tie directly to how intentionally we are living?
- What are things we can do to help us remember our position in Christ?

### **III. Anticipate Christ's Return ([Colossians 3:4](#))**

Regardless of our circumstances, the Christian has an assurance that one day Jesus will return. But this assurance is not merely for the coming of the Lord, but for the full revelation of what we already are ([Rom. 8:18](#)). To live the abundant, victorious life Christ intends, we aren't to live according to the here and now, but for that which is to come. Our perspectives, actions, and attitudes should be motivated by the fact, that at any moment, Christ will come back. Keeping our focus on His return will help us have a more accurate view of our circumstances today and how intentional living can foster effective Christian living.

- What are examples of things we anticipate each day (i.e. getting home after work, dessert, sleeping in late on Saturdays, etc.)?
- What is it about these things that make them worth anticipating?
- How does knowing they are coming affect us as we anticipate?
- How does this look as we anticipate Christ's return?
- How could this anticipation affect how we spend our time each day?
- Why is it important to live with anticipation of Christ's return?

“As Christians are freed from the ceremonial law, they must walk the more closely with God in gospel obedience. As heaven and earth are contrary one to the other, both cannot be followed together; and affection to the one will weaken and abate affection to the other... Christ is, at present, one whom we have not seen; but our comfort is, that our life is safe with him... At the second coming of Christ, there will be a general assembling of all the redeemed; and those whose life is now hid with Christ, shall then appear with him in his glory.”

Matthew Henry