

Focusing on Jesus in a Blurry World:

Focusing on Eternity

Sermon #9, Colossians 3:1-4

Main Point: Our identity in Jesus motivates our focus on eternity.

Getting to Know You

1. What are some situations in life that cause you to look up? (Possible answers: Findlay's Hot Air Balloon Festival, an airplane, flying a kite, etc.). What are some situations that cause you to look down? (Possible answers: a satellite, a vulture, looking down from airplane, when you are sad)

Getting into the Book:

Read Colossians 3:1-4

2. Name the four ways listed in these verses in which we are united with Christ. In your own words, explain what each one means.
3. What does it mean for Jesus to be "seated at the right hand of God"? (See Acts 5:31; Hebrews 1:3)
4. How should the truth about a Christian being "hidden with Christ in God" strengthen your faith? (See also John 10:27-30)
5. Why should the revealing of Jesus Christ at His second coming excite us? (See also Philippians 3:20-21)
6. Think about the t-shirts or signs you have seen in our culture describing what is most important in life and fill in the blank: "_____ is life."
 - a. In contrast, who does verse 4 say is our life? What does that practically mean for us?
7. What two actions are we told to continually do, based on our identity in Christ? (Leader note: "keep seeking" has to do with the trajectory of our lifestyle (outward living) and "keep setting your mind on" has to do with the trajectory of our thoughts (inward thinking).)

Getting Out There

8. What are some "things above" that we as Christians should live for and think about? What are some "things on the earth" we should avoid living for or thinking about (see 3:5, 8)?
9. What is it about our world that makes it difficult to focus on eternal things?
10. Share with the group a specific area in which you need to start living for or thinking about "things above." Ask the group to pray for and encourage you in that area.

Prayer

Praise God for the security of salvation He offers in Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit for help to focus on eternal things in your everyday life.

Bonus Exercise

Work on memorizing Colossians 2:8 together.

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."