

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for May 24-25, 2003

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"Pursuing God with Our Heart And Mind"

Colossians 3:1-4

Colossians 1 grounds the church in truth. Colossians 2 guards the church from error. Colossians 3:1-17 grows the church in relation to God.

1. Pursuing God with our heart (3:1)

a. Our mandate

We are commanded to "keep seeking the things above." What are the "things above?" They are clarified by a contrast with "the things that are on earth." The things that are on earth are not strictly things that are sinful (cf. Luke 17:26-30).

b. Our motivation

1) We are motivated by our position

We have been raised up.

2) We are motivated by Christ's position

Christ is exalted to a place of honor.

2. Pursuing God with our mind (3:2-4)

a. Our mandate (3:2)

The command to "keep seeking" speaks to the desire to actively pursue the things above. The command to "set your mind" speaks to the focus of our thoughts.

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b. Our motivation (3:3-4)

1) We are motivated by our death with Christ (3:3)

All Christians have died with Christ.

- Colossians 2:20
- Romans 6:1-11
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- Galatians 2:20
- Luke 9:23-24

2) We are motivated by our position with Christ (3:3)

Being hidden "with God in Christ" shows the exalted position we enjoy. Who we are is not known by the world.

Being hidden "with God in Christ" also shows the secure position we enjoy. There is a double protection of being with God in Christ (cf. Hebrews 13:5-6).

3) We are motivated by our life with Christ (3:4)

4) We are motivated by our revelation with Christ (3:4)

If we died with Christ, we will also live and reign with Christ (2 Timothy 2:11-12; cf. 1 Thessalonians 3:13).