

SET YOURSELF ON THINGS ABOVE

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3: 1-2)

Have you ever observed the hen – how she is living? She walks around and around, marching to every corner, exploring and searching all the soil. All day long, her eyes are focused down and her beak and feet keep on sweeping the ground reaching all the garbage places looking for food. And to any food particle revealed, she breaks it with her feet and examines it with her beak before giving it to her chicks. Even if you provide her with selected seeds and clean food, she will not stop scratching the ground, looking for food in the vicinity, going back to her old ways. Like the hen that all her days she spent looking down and searching the ground for food, is a man who does not find hope in the Lord.

Jesus’ death on the cross is the fulfillment of God’s promises to us. For in the appointed time God sent His son Jesus Christ for us. **“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Roman 5:8).** Christ’s death on the cross gives us new direction and new way of life. We receive new hope as Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and seated at the right hand of God. We, who believe ultimately, will go to heaven. Anyone who believes in Jesus becomes a child of God and shall experience the newness of life; no more fear of problem or death but having the true hope for the final destiny – to live forever with Christ in His kingdom.

A. Set your heart on things above: Through the blood of Christ our sins are forgiven and we are able us to reach God who is holy. We used to live in sin and do things incompatible with God. Now that we receive new life with Christ, we must set our hearts on things above and beyond earthly matters:

1. **“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature; sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5).** The new privilege we have is our life with Jesus. The eternal life we receive is incompatible with our old life that we lived before. Our former aim was to satisfy our body and he ambition to gain more pleasure by any possible meanly ways. Now, immorality or stolen pleasures should have no place in our hearts. The presence of Jesus in our hearts must be our ultimate goal, our new hope and new power to spare us from ungodliness and idolatry. The split personality serving two masters eventually can be replaced with a committed heart to serve God alone; forgetting the race for profession, good position, knowledge or prestige, and be cleansed from greed and pride. For all those ideas became as idols to us that we serve and worship as we spend all our time and effort to attain them. As we believe in Jesus and entrust our life in His hands, our previous concern and priorities will be changed to heavenly noble goals.

2. **But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these:**
Anger – is a disease that eats your flesh and the flesh of other.
Rage – is the roaring wave of the sea that threatens your life.
Malice – is the crook way that will lead you to poverty.
Slander – is the trap that will ensnare you.

Filthy language from your lips – is the process that will disfigure your face and dismantle your identity. **“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices”.** (Colossians 3:9) Jesus has renewed us, and we become God’s children. We have become the children of truth. Our cooperation and response with Jesus facilitates the Lord’s plan to cleanse us from all filth and impurities. **“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you, and over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”** (Colossians 3:12-14)

B. Set your mind on things above: Before we come to know Christ we used to estimate resources, giving opinions, evaluate situations, choosing things and solving problem using earthly ways. Certain set-up in our minds should be configured from earthly to heavenly set-up.

Recently, I met a beloved brother. He was upset. I asked him, “What is the matter?” He answered me, “I am 29 years married but till now I don’t have children. I need to go to another doctor!” I answered him, “We are praying for this matter and we have to wait upon God. You have already consulted doctors and told you to wait.” He was distressed and his reply was, “Why we don’t go to other doctor?” I answered him, “Why not? God’s grace may come through that channel.” And I enquired more. “Do you think if you spend more money and visit other doctors or use other methods you will benefit?” He answered, “It may be.” I agreed with him but also I told him, “It may be not and your effort will be fruitless. But I want to know why you are so anxious to have a child?” He answered, “My parents, the people around me, and all are asking why you don’t have children till now?” I replied, **“Children not born out of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will but born of God.”** (John 1:13) Abraham got Isaac when he was 99. Isaac got his sons when he was 40. It is not by might, nor by power, but by the spirit, says the Lord. Then I continue. “Why are you so distressed? You are a child of God and one day you will be in heaven. The lord Jesus may come again at any time and He will take you with Him. Your wife will be your sister, your children will be your brothers and sisters.” I suggested to him, “Why do you not set your mind on things above?”

Actually, all that my brother suggested was upright, but in one thing he was wrong –that he sets his mind on earthly things. Our new life in Christ gives us hope and solutions to many problems. Many duties, responsibilities, customs and traditions that we routinely perform became real burdens. But we cancel these agenda while we are transforming, and we are making new set-up for our minds on things above.

My Dear and Beloved, **“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”** (Colossians 3:4) As the second coming of Jesus is approaching, I appeal to you to live a life where your heart and mind are transformed in obedience to the word of God as you pray:

My Prayer: “O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, free me Lord from any past. Keep me safe from looking down on earthly things, until I meet You in heaven. Let your will be done and your name be ever glorified in Jesus’ mighty name, I pray, Amen.