

Easter 2021 - The Glory of Reigning with Christ

Colossians 3:1-17

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I. Reigning with Christ (cf. Rev 1:5-6; 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:9-10)

Easter is the beginning of Jesus' rule as King. One of the remarkable promises of Scripture is that Jesus will share this rule with us. He wants us to reflect the glory of His kingly authority.

- ⁵... To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1:5b-6)
- ²⁶And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— ²⁷He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels— as I also have received from My Father... (2:26-27) ²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (3:21)
- ⁹And [the four living creatures] sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You... have made [your people] kings and priests to our God; And [they] shall reign on the earth." (5:9-10)

II. Resurrection Glory in the Here and Now

Christ assures us that we shall share His kingly glory – both in the future and in the present:

¹¹But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. ¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

The Spirit assures us of our _____ resurrection and empowers us to live righteously in the _____. Paul fleshes this out in Colossians 3:

¹If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Paul insists that our ultimate destiny is to *appear with Christ in _____* (4). That is our _____ hope. But note that this has ramifications in the _____. By the Spirit, in our baptism, *we died to sin and were raised to new life with Christ*. As Paul writes in Romans 6:

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

III. Heavenly-Minded versus Earthly-Minded

⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

What is it to be *earthly-minded*? To be *earthly-minded* is to live a life of sexual perversion, malice, and deceit; it is to sin and, thus, to mar and deface the image of God. To be *earthly-minded* is to imitate the old man in _____ rather than to reflect the *new man* in _____. To be *earthly-minded* is to be a practical atheist; to live as though there is no heaven. It is to walk in darkness, in ignorance, and in rebellion.

A. Sexual Sins (5-7 cf. Prov 5; Heb 13:4; 1 Thes 4:1-8)

⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Notice that to *put to death our members which are on the earth* is to *flee sexual sin*. To be *heavenly-minded* rather than *earthly-minded* is to pursue sexual glory. We are to *set our minds on things above* by *putting to death* sexual sin. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:13-20:

¹³...Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. ¹⁸Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

B. Interpersonal Sins (8-11)

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their *earthly-mindedness* not only manifested itself in *sexual brokenness* but in *relational brokenness*:

⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

As those who have been *raised with Christ*, we are to shun such *earthly-mindedness* and to *put on heavenly-mindedness*. So what does *heavenly-mindedness* look like?

¹²Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

IV. Reflecting the Glory of Christ's Rule

One of the ways that we reflect the glory of Christ's kingly rule in the _____ is by ruling ourselves. We reflect the glory of Christ's rule by putting off sexual and interpersonal sins and devoting our lives to the service of God and neighbor. Christ has risen from the dead to free you from *earthly-mindedness* so that you might be *heavenly-minded*.

V. Conclusion