



# Positionally Dead AND Alive in the Colossian Epistle (continued)

*Scripture Reading:*

**Colossians 2: 20 – 3:4**

# REVIEW

- **The believer's death with Christ**
  - *To the sin nature - Rom 6:2-3*
  - *To the world system and its elements - Gal 6:14, Col 2:20*
    - We are **IN** the world system – Jn 7:15
    - We are not **OUT** of the world system (as to our source of existence)
    - We can **USE, BUT NOT OVERUSE** the world system - 1 Cor 7:31
      - *Overuse = any interference of our purpose, time, or affections*
    - We are not to allow ourselves to be placed under any man-made restrictions concerning the elements of the world system
    - We are under Christ's lordship - 1 Cor 8:4, 8-9

# RISEN WITH CHRIST Colossians 3:1-4

- Vs 1 - The risen Christ sitting at God the Father's right hand
  - *“IF” is a Greek first-class condition which means “assumed to be true” from the viewpoint of the speaker or writer. In this instance, the viewpoint of Paul*
  - *Therefore, “IF” in vs 1 = “SINCE it is assumed to be true” and, also in*
    - *“SINCE we were buried with Christ” – Col 2:20*
    - *“SINCE we were raised with Christ” – Col 2: 12-13*
  - *Then, “(mentally) seek those things above” – cf Eph 1:3*

# RISEN WITH CHRIST Colossians 3:1-4

- Vs 2 – Focused thinking on “above” things
  - *The “mind of Christ”*
    - cf I Cor 2:16 “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

# RISEN WITH CHRIST Colossians 3:1-4

- Vs 3 - Because you are dead - not physically or spiritually, **BUT positionally** - cf Jn 3:6-7
  - *Your (positional) LIFE, i.e., resurrection life, is “hid with Christ in God” – Col 2:1-3*
- Our treasures: the wisdom and (experiential) knowledge of our position in Christ
- Don't let anyone rob (“spoil” KJV) you of these treasure! - Col 2:8

**RISEN WITH  
CHRIST  
Colossians  
3:1-4**

- **Vs 4 - Our position will be made a permanent reality at the appearance of Christ for the Church, the Rapture –**
  - *1 Jn 3:2*
    - “... but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is”

**Romans 6 = positionally dead and alive with Christ**



**Ephesians 4 = positionally have put off the Old Man and have put on the New Man**




**Colossians 3 = positionally dead and alive and are to put off the behavior of the Old Man and to put on behavior of the New Man**

# Dead with Christ from the Elements of the World (System)


- 1. **Elements of the world system** = material goods, commerce, food production (worldly education, religion, entertainment (music, art, theater, sports, etc) Col 2:20-23
- 2. **Satan is the designer, engineer, and director of the world system** - Jn 12: 31, 14:30, 16:11
- 3. **The purpose of the world system:**
  - *To direct the sin nature in ways acceptable to society*
  - *To misdirect the attention of believers from “things above, not the things on the earth” - Col 3:2, I Jn 2:15*





Dead with  
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- 4. The believer's relationship to the world system
  - *We are to live in it, while here on earth*
    - Jn 17:15
  - *We are not out of it, as to our source*
    - Jn 17:16, cf Jn 3:7
  - *We can use the world system, but not “mis-use” i.e., it to its fulness*
    - I Cor 7:31



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- 5. Therefore, we are crucified to the world's control and the world's control over us is crucified
  - *Gal 6:14* “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world”



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- 6. The dogmatic restrictions of the world system that come from *man-made asceticism and religious legalism* – Col 2:20-22
  - Prohibitions from this asceticism & legalism -vs 21
  - These prohibited elements are destroyed (consumed) by their very use - vs 22a
  - These restrictions come from commandments and *didaskalia* from the men (ascetics, legalizers) vs 22:b, cf I Tim 4:1-4
  - The failure of false restrictions of the elements from the world system – vs 23

# CONCLUSION

- Every NT grace-believer who has this hope should
  - *“Purify themselves,” - that is, be free from the taint of our three spiritual enemies*
    - I Jn 3:3 kjv – “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”
  - *Know that Christ in us is the hope of our position in Him (the glory)*
    - Col 1:27 kjv - “To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**”