



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

*Scripture Reading:*

**Romans 8:1-7**

# INTRODUCTION

- Christian apologist (one who speaks or writes in defense of a point of view)  
Ravi Zacharias, had a podcast called “Let My People Think!”
  - *1 Cor 2:16* “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ”
  - A local church sign that is displaying Romans 8:1 “There is no condemnation to those who *belong to Christ*” (KJV “...to the ones in Christ Jesus”)
- Orin Bidwell’s article submitted to the Baptist Bulletin, “The Two Sides of ‘In’” (based on John 14:20), was rejected by the editor for being “too deep” for the average reader of the magazine
- Positional truth of our salvation is NOT too deep. It is for every believer to know and understand

# 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”

# 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  
Christ  
from the  
Elements  
of the  
World  
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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*
    - 1 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**”