

Colossians 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Analysis

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Chapter 3 transitions from doctrinal foundation to practical application. "If ye then be risen" (ei oun synēgerthēte, εἰ οὖν συνηγέρθητε) uses first-class condition assuming truth: "since you were raised." Union with Christ's resurrection (2:12-13) demands corresponding conduct. Those raised to new life must live accordingly.

"Seek those things which are above" (ta anō zēteite, τὰ ἄνω ζητεῖτε) commands active pursuit of heavenly realities. Present imperative indicates continuous action—ongoing heavenly focus, not occasional spiritual interest. "Where Christ sitteth" locates these realities: Christ's exalted position "at the right hand of God" (en dexia tou theou, ἐν δεξιᾷ τοῦ θεοῦ), the place of supreme authority and honor (Psalm 110:1), proves His victory and believers' security.

Historical Context

The ancient world divided reality into earthly and heavenly realms. Paganism focused on earthly prosperity; Greek philosophy sought to escape material existence; Judaism anticipated earthly kingdom restoration. Christianity uniquely combines present earthly existence with heavenly citizenship and hope, living in both realities simultaneously. Christ's ascension and session at God's right hand grounds Christian hope in historical event, not philosophical abstraction.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What percentage of your daily thoughts focus on earthly versus heavenly realities?
2. How does Christ's position at God's right hand affect your confidence in His current authority and future victory?
3. What practical steps help you 'seek things above' while fulfilling earthly responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

Εἰ	οὖν	συνηγέρθητε	τῷ	Χριστός	τὰ	ἄνω		
If	then	be risen	G3588	Christ	G3588	those things which are above		
G1487	G3767	G4891		G5547		G507		
ζητεῖτε	οὗ	ὁ	Χριστός	ἐστίν	ἐν	δεξιᾷ	τοῦ	θεοῦ
seek	where	G3588	Christ	sitteth	on	the right hand	G3588	of God
G2212	G3757		G5547	G2076	G1722	G1188		G2316
καθήμενος·								
G2521								

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:6 (Parallel theme): For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Matthew 6:33 (References God): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (Parallel theme): While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Colossians 3:2 (Parallel theme): Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Matthew 6:20 (Parallel theme): But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Hebrews 12:2 (References God): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 12:33 (Parallel theme): Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Psalms 16:11 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Luke 22:69 (References God): Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.