

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

Colossians 3:1-4

### **A person is raised with Christ at baptism.**

Colossians 2:12 says “buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Paul reminded the Colossians they had been buried with Christ in baptism, in which (at baptism) they were raised with Him through faith in the working of God. While faith, repentance and confession of Jesus as the Christ lead toward salvation it is through the action of baptism that we receive the benefits of the blood of Jesus and are saved. Note Peter’s words of 1 Peter 3:21: “There is also an anti-type which now saves us – baptism, (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

**Christ is at the right hand of God.** Many religious groups today look forward to a future kingdom. They are mistaken.

The kingdom of Christ began at the events of Acts 2 and continues still. Jesus made the promise that those of His day would see it come with power (Mark 9:1) and when they saw and heard the effects of the apostles being baptized with the Holy Spirit they saw the kingdom of God as it began (Acts 2:1-4). The sermon of Acts 2 emphasizes that Jesus was at the right hand of God in fulfillment of God’s promise to David and the prophecy of Psalm 110. He is still at God’s right hand. In addition, Paul and John both stated that they and others were in the kingdom (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9). Any teaching connected to a kingdom to come in our future is error, for the kingdom of Jesus has been in existence since the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. The popular concepts of a rapture, tribulation and earthly kingdom of Jesus simply are not true. Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world, not a physical kingdom (John 18:36).

**When Christ appears, we shall appear with Him in glory.** What a promise! John said we shall be as He is, even though he did not know the specifics of this unique blessing (1 John 3:4). Paul also spoke of the change we will be given when we are raised from the dead, and those alive are changed in a moment in time (1 Corinthians 15:35-58). This all happens at the resurrection, at the second coming of Jesus. Jesus said the hour, a specific point in time, is coming when all the dead shall be raised. All will be raised at the same time (John 5:28-29). Paul also spoke of the time of the resurrection in his letter to the Thessalonian disciples. Paul, in this passage, was focused upon comforting the Christian so he only spoke of the resurrection of the righteous and their ascending to meet the Lord in the air. Paul does not say Jesus will come to earth, but he does say that the disciples will ascend to meet Him and will always be with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This is the resurrection to life, and each of us should desire it. The alternative place we do not want!