

Your Heavenly Perspective

Colossians 3:1-4

¹Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Colossians 3:1–4 (NLT)

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One key to driving is to look where you are going, not where you have been. Many young drivers make the mistake of focusing on the road right at the end of their hood rather than looking a ways forward to where they intend to go. It is a skill everyone needs to learn.

It also has great application to the Christian life. We need to look forward to where we are ultimately going. In chapter one, we learned about who Christ is. In chapter two, we learned how to not get entrapped by those who want to take us captive to worldly spirituality. Now in chapter three we begin to learn how to be truly spiritual and live as a spiritual person. It starts not with a vision of angels, but with a change in our vision from earth to heaven.

1. *What personal event has made a change in our perspective essential (3:1)?*

Paul illuminates on the transformation that baptism makes. John the Baptist used water, but he predicted one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 3:11; John 1:33*). It is this one time baptism which places the believer into Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:13*) that is pictured in the ritual of water baptism by immersion (*Acts 2:38; 10:47; Romans 6:3, 8-10*). The ritual serves to remind us that we died with Christ on the cross and have been raised out of the water to this new life.

2. *How do we set our sights on the realities of heaven (3:1-2)?*

Dr. Geisler in the *Bible Knowledge Commentary* says that fixing our, ... attention decisively toward “things above” involves centering their lives on the ascended (Eph. 4:10), glorified (John 17:5; Phil. 2:9) **Christ, who is seated at the right hand of God** (Ps. 110:1; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33; 5:31; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Heb. 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22). This is His seat of divine authority because He has defeated the forces of evil and death (Heb. 2:14–15).¹

3. *What must change in how we view our life to make this real in our thinking (3:3)?*

4. *How do these other passages help us see our new position in Christ more clearly?
Ephesians 2:5-6*

Galatians 2:19-20

1 Corinthians 15:22-23

Philippians 3:20-21

5. *What future event will make us glad we changed our focus (3:4)?*

The future of the Christian is tied up with the future of Christ. At the end, the *eschatos* (Greek for *last*, thus eschatology is the study of the last things), we will see Christ manifested in glory and the entire world will see his glory and ours as we appear in our “glorified” bodies.

6. *What do the following verses tell us about what awaits Christians?
Matthew 5:12*

Matthew 25:21

2 Timothy 4:7–8

James 1:12

Revelation 20:13

¹ Norman L. Geisler, [“Colossians.”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 680.