

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Paul says that you have died. Normally that would be bad news, wouldn't it? When we hear that someone has died, we don't normally respond with a high five or a "That's awesome." Yet isn't it awesome and worth celebrating, that you have died? You have died, and now your life is hidden with Christ with God—you are not dead. The here and now is still there, and you still have responsibilities and concerns in it, but it does not define you, and it is not all that you live for, or even most of what you live for, and as bad as it might get at times, it can't dampen the then and there that now awaits you. And so we rightly seek the things that are above, because, having died, we have been raised with Christ. Our Savior is at the right hand of God, the hand of power (the sword hand in ancient times, which is why we shake with our right hands today, to show we don't have a weapon). Christ is at the right hand of God, and He is there to direct all things for the good of His Bride, the Church, of which you are a member, with Christ your Head. And so when the cross weighs down upon you—whatever your cross might be at the time—look up and bear up and remember the glory that awaits, that Easter follows Good Friday. Will this life still sometimes loom large? Will this life still have its frustrations and grievances? Of course it will. And yet, while you must consider and deal with them as a Christian called to certain vocations and responsibilities in this world, you need not set your mind on them, and they need not dominate your meditation and ponderance. Why? Because you have died. And that is awesome, worth celebrating even. You have died to live in Christ in the here and now and with Him in the then and there forever. You are men and women raised from spiritual death to life in the Savior now and awaiting the glad resurrection of all the living and the dead when you will be raised to see His face and bask in His blessedness forever. That might not remove all the speed bumps of life, but it does take the edge off and put them in perspective.