

## **Branded by the Supreme Savior!** **Colossians 3:1-4**

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### **Introduction:**

- I. It is typical of Paul to end his epistles with a closing section of practical application (Romans 12ff; Ephesians 4ff; etc.).
  1. Having effectively dealt with the error affecting the congregation in Colossae and having set the supremacy of the Savior in very clear terms, Paul now begins to apply these truths to daily living.
  2. The far-surpassing supremacy of Christ means the believer's entire life should be affected.
  3. The present text recalls the points suggested by Paul as he dealt with the error in that city. Verse 1 begins as a logical conclusion.
  4. The present passage is beautiful. One has described it as "extraordinary beauty" and general agreement must be voiced.
  
- II. From this passage we are able to see how Christ's authority affects the Believer.

It has been claimed that as one godly missionary sent his entire adult yrs as a faithful worker of the Lord among African tribes, that when he traveled through the villages and jungles he was called "Jesus Christ's man."

What a wonderful tribute to one's character. This is the result that should be demonstrated in the life of every man and woman who recognizes the supremacy of Christ Jesus.

1. There will be a noticeable change in one's inward attitudes and in outward behavior.
2. Believers who truly recognize Christ as the Supreme Savior will be "branded" in such a way that others will quickly notice they belong to the Lord (Galatians 6:17b).
3. From a careful study of the text we are able to see three brand marks that are worn by those following the supreme Savior.

### **Body:**

- I. They will be branded with a **RESURRECTION!** (1a, 3a).
  - A. The Colossians had been subjects of a resurrection. Notice the following points associated with this –
    1. The ACTIONS – We were "raised." This refers to baptism (2:12). In immersion one obeys God's will and is raised to walk a new life with God (Romans 6:4). This raising was a spiritual resurrection — our

- sinful man was buried in the watery grave! (Romans 6:6)
2. The REASON – We died! At baptism we were buried because we had died to the things of the world. We were separated from sin. Because of this death, our past no longer holds us captive! Note: There can be no resurrection if there is no death.
  3. The CONSEQUENCES – The resurrection we have experienced has definite effects. “If” – no doubt but a certain fact; better rendered “since.”
    - a. This resurrection is a sure fact. Therefore it has an absolute impact upon our lives.
    - b. Because we have been raised with Christ, we are DEAD to the world!
- B. The means of this resurrection is immersion FOR the forgiveness of sins.
1. It is amazing to read denominational authors who recognize this fact, yet they continue to hold to doctrines that deny the essentiality of baptism.
  2. The text is clear – You do not follow the Supreme Savior until you have obeyed the biblical doctrine of baptism FOR the remission of sins (Colossians 2:12; 3:1). How can it be any clearer?
- C. It should be evident to your associates that you have “died” and are now “risen” with the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you wear this brand-mark?
- II. They will be branded with a **MINDSET!** (1b-2).
- A. Here is where the greatest change occurs. One's entire model of thinking is drastically altered!
1. We can decide what and how we think (Philippians 4:8-9).
  2. By a deliberate decision we make sure our thoughts are acceptable to the Supreme Lord and Savior of our lives. We will make this decision because we have died and have been raised with Him.
- B. Why is it imp't for us to change our thinking?
1. Because Christ is “above.” We must set our thoughts on that most precious to us. Because Christ is supreme it is essential for us to think on Him. His victory assures us of triumph!
  2. Because the things “above” are far greater than the things on the earth. That above is God-like, eternal in value but that on earth is selfish, trivial, and temporary.
  3. Because those who mind earthly things never know the joy of

heaven (Philippians 3:19). This does not mean we are to be unconcerned about earthly life. It does mean we are not to allow life on earth to become our “god.” We will look at this world from a heavenly viewpoint!

4. Because it gives the right focus.
  - a. We see that the spiritual outweighs the worldly.
  - b. We will eliminate a divided affection.
  - c. We will be devoted to God (Psalm 42:1-2; Matthew 5:6).

C. Paul is careful to show us that this mindset must be diligently developed – it is not an easy process!

1. Our society discourages this mindset.
2. Paul says that we must develop this mindset by 2 perspectives:
  - a. From an outward — “keep seeking” (1). This has to do with our visible deeds. There must be continuous energy demonstrated in our actions.
  - b. From an inward — “set your mind” (2). This has to be done with our attitudes. One can perform pious deeds but lack essential attitudes. We must seek (effort) and think (attitude) on the things above!
3. This earnestness is referred to in Hebrews 11:14.

D. Whenever one is branded by this mindset, his new thoughts, attitudes, and deeds will be seen by all. Do you bear this brand-mark of the Supreme Savior?

III. They will be branded with **SECURITY!** (3b-4).

A. We are confident of a secure position in the present because we are “hid with Christ.”

Life may be weak, sickly, unhealthy, painful, trying, anxious, worn, burdensome, joyless, smile less to the very end. Assurance is more than life. It is health, strength, power, vigor, activity, energy, manliness, beauty.

1. This security is alluded to in other texts (John 10:27-29).
2. Unfortunately some have seen this phrase to teach that one is saved from sin after becoming a Christian so that he will never sin as to be eternally lost. Such is absurd when it is remembered that the very purpose of Colossians is to persuade Christians to remain faithful and not fall away! If the Colossians were “hid” with Christ in the sense they enjoyed eternal security from apostasy, they would not have

needed Paul's inspired instructions!

- B. We are secure in this life because “Christ is your life.”
  - 1. Christ gives meaning to life. He gives the force and strength that is necessary for life.
  - 2. See: John 14:6; 1 John 5:11; Galatians 2:20
  
- C. We have a secure outlook for the future — “glory!”
  - 1. “Manifested” – an appearance of a King for his coronation.
  - 2. As Christ comes back the Believers will share in this coronation (1 John 3:2). They will receive crowns (Revelation 2:10b).
  - 3. We will be able to look confidently toward this time! (1 John 2:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
  - 4. Note: It is “when” not “if” Christ comes back! We should feel a great security in this fact!
  - 5. Because we are “hid” in Him, His coming will not be a terror but a blessing! (2 Thessalonians 2:7-10; Titus 2:13).

**Conclusion:**

- I. The Christian must be different from those in the world — Others should look and say, “here comes the ‘Jesus man!’” This is the result of our being branded by the Supreme Savior!
  - 1. He has branded us with resurrection through immersion!
  - 2. He has branded our mindset because we think on the things above!
  - 3. He has branded us with a security that is not to be found anywhere else!
  
- II. Why would one want to demonstrate these brand marks to others?
  - 1. Because they testify that we are followers of Christ (Matthew 5:16).
  - 2. Because it shows we know our Lord is supreme. He is above the world; He is life; He gives all who come to Him a blessed security; He raises us from the dead.
  - 3. Why would one not want to demonstrate these brand marks?