

Of Fulfillment and Folly

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection [let your mindset be] on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:1-4).

We have been considering the “mind-boggling” impact of the reality of the human place in the universe, as the possessors of the very energy of God, who created it. That God would lift this tiny particle in the vastness of space to a position of possessing His energy and being in communication with Him, is beyond all human comprehension. But in God’s revelation to man, both through Christ, the Logos, and the written Word of God, that which no human mind could ever really conceive has been most clearly verified. In fact, God Himself is beyond the human mind to conceive, since of course there is nothing in the world that approaches the qualities that mankind ascribes to the Deity. As a matter of fact, to say “there is no God,” is actually to affirm His existence, since there must be some kind of object to deny. For us humans, who are tiny specks in the vastness of space, to comprehend the magnitude of God would be like an ant comprehending the magnitude of a human.

So now we confront the issue of “*seeking those things that are above.*” If the mind cannot conceive of something that is beyond space and time (as infinity), how can we set our minds on the things that are above us? The answer, of course, lies in the reality of the Spirit. Salvation, as a new birth, brings the very Spirit of God into our own spirits. “We are partakers then of the very nature of God” (II Peter 1:4). It is this Spirit of God within us that provides the energy to interact with God. However, the human brain cannot always comprehend what the spirit within us knows through the Holy Spirit. The true realities of the interaction between ourselves and God take place by the Spirit within us, who helps us in our human weakness and interacts with God on our behalf in ways that go beyond the capacity of the human to articulate (Romans 8:26).

Meanwhile, we must function in a pragmatic way on the earth. The spirit indeed interacts with God, but our human minds must confront the issues of life on the earth. And this is where we get into trouble. Life on the earth is constantly troublesome and uncertain, and often tragic and devastating. How can we maintain ourselves in some degree of peace and well-being?

In Colossians 3, Paul gives us a very important clue—“*Seek those things that are above.*” One of the most obvious observations about life is that it is tenuous. Everything is in a state of flux. Change is itself the most changeless reality. Any day, any hour, any minute, things can change and do in fact change. Strangely enough, it is always shocking when things do change. “Misfortunes always happen to others.” The obvious response to this is that while we are certainly entitled to enjoy the things of life when we have them, it is well that we do not put too much weight on them. Our spirits are eternal, especially as occupied by the Spirit of God. Whatever happens in this world and to this body,

the spirit goes on forever. And that is the essence of our life. As Martin Luther puts it, "The body they may kill; our Lord abideth still."

Set your affections on things above . . .

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full of folly and will be subject to it as long as we are on the earth.

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