

Seeing Suffering Through The Lens of Eternity, Colossians 3:1-4 – June 30th, 2019

- I want to talk with you about a truth here in the Word of God that has the potential of powerfully changing how we live our lives.
- Namely, that of setting both our hearts and our minds on heavenly things so as to see our suffering through the lens of eternity.
- I would submit that the more heavenly minded we are the more earthly good our lives will become and the more good we'll do.

C. S. Lewis, in Mere Christianity said it this way, "A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither."

- Enter today's text where the Apostle Paul reveals the secret to a fulfilling and fruitful Christian life of peace joy and contentment.
- In verses 1-2 he says that it's because we've been raised with Christ that our hearts and minds are to be set above, on Christ.
- Then in verses 3-4 he tells them that our lives are now hidden with Christ so when Christ appears, we will be with Him in glory.

- One of the things I'm learning in my own walk with the Lord is the power of my thought life to impact my life for good or for bad.
- By that I mean, how I think determines how I feel and act and if I have a heavenly "mindset" it changes my view of life's trials.
- The bird's eye/heavenly minded view through the lens of the One Who knows the end from the beginning changes everything!

That classic and timeless hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," says it all: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace."

- I'll bring it to a close by sharing with you 4 verses that have been of tremendous encouragement to me personally in this regard.

Romans 8:18 - I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.