**Spiritual Growth Questions for July 2nd, 2023**

**Opening Questions:**

1. When you think of your life being "hidden in Christ," how does that speak to you?
2. What comfort do you draw from the idea that "real" life is still to be enjoyed in the future? How does this tweak the notion of the "*after* life"?
3. Is it difficult to think of the everlasting and eternal future being one of true, actual pleasure? Have you considered this idea before?
4. **Read Galatians 2:20:** How does this interact with the idea of our lives being hidden in Christ? How do we incorporate the idea of Christ living in us into our daily lives? Can you think of something Jesus said in the gospel that relates to this topic?

2**. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9:** How do you draw out the meaning of this passage? Where does your mind take you when you ponder what Paul is saying here?

3. **Read Ps 16:11** "You will make know to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; In your right hand there are pleasures forever." Have you ever thought through the ramifications of these words in a tactile sense or contemplated how it would play out in eternity?

**Deeper Study:** Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Have you ever wondered what it was that Paul saw and what he heard that was so astounding? What effect do you think these revelations had upon his life and ministry? How does this passage relate to the passage we studied today?

**Prayer:** Lord, please help me discipline my thoughts and hopes so that I set my mind on the "Things above." Help me to recognize clutter and distractions so that my life is further devoted to You and Your purposes for me. Amen.

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**THE THINGS ABOVE - Colossians 3:1-4**

**July 2nd, 2023, Pastor Paul Sellman**

*Last week, we discussed how Jesus taught that YOU are the light of the world. Today we will explore the bizarre and wonderful notion that you really are not you. Yet.*

**A) INTRODUCTION**

**B) THE TEXT**

**Colossians 3:1-4:**

Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things *that are* above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on the things *that are* above, not on the things that are on earth. 3For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**1. Some background explanation:**

**Ephesians 2:4-6:** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus...

**The word "Raised" has two connotations:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**2. The Importance of the mind:**

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Conformed changes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Transformed changes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 4:22-24** ...that, in reference to your former way of life, you are to rid yourselves of the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23and that you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24and to put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

**3. The Mystical, Mysterious & Happy Truth**

Your *real* life is hidden away in Christ.

We only see part of the picture now.

**1 Corinthians 13:8-10:** Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away with; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away with. 9For we know in part and prophesy in part; 10but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away with.

**Two Truths:**

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**5) He went to great lengths to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Discipleship is not based \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**OTHER VERSES:**

**Romans 8:19:** For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the children of God.

**1 John 3:2:** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

**OUR NEW BODIES:**

**1 Corinthians 15:42-44:** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; 43it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.

**KEY THOUGHT:**

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**C) CONCLUSION**

**The essence of the Gospel:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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