

Let Us Set Our Affection on the Right Things  
(Colossians 3:1-2)

Introduction:

1. We are using the instructions in Colossians 3:1-2 to introduce our lesson.
  - a. These instructions apply to those who have been raised with Christ [the process whereby a person is raised with Christ is explained in 2:12].
  - b. Those of us who have been raised with the Lord are to set our affection on the right things.
    - 1) We are to set our affection "*on things above.*"
    - 2) We are not to set our affection "*on things on the earth.*"

Discussion:

- I. WE ARE NOT TO SET OUR AFFECTION "*ON THINGS ON THE EARTH*"
  - A. When we talk about things that involve our affection, we are talking about things we love.
  - B. "*Things on the earth*" that we are not to set our affection on include:
    1. "*the praise of men*" (John 12:42-43)
      - a. The Pharisees had this problem, and it prevented them from confessing the Lord.
      - b. If we want Jesus to confess us we must confess Him (Matthew 10:32-33).
    2. "*money*" (1 Timothy 6:10)
      - a. The love of money:
        - 1) prevented the rich young ruler from following Jesus (Matthew 19:16-22)
        - 2) caused the first scandal in the church (Acts 5:1-11).
      - b. In I Timothy 6:17-19, Paul showed us what God wants.
    3. "*ourselves*" (2 Timothy 3:1-2a) [think too highly of ourselves -- Romans 12:3]
    4. "*pleasures*" (2 Timothy 3:4)
    5. "*the world*" (1 John 2:15-17)
    6. "*preeminence*" (3 John 9).
  - C. Rather than set our affection on things on the earth such as these, . . .
- II. WE ARE TO SET OUR AFFECTION "*ON THINGS ABOVE*"
  - A. When we talk about things that involve our affection, we are talking about things we love.
  - B. "*Things above*" that we are to set our affection on include:
    1. God (Matthew 22:37; I John 5:3)
    2. Christ (Matthew 10:37; John 14:15)
    3. our neighbors (Matthew 22:39; 7:12)
    4. our fellow Christians (John 13:34-35)
    5. God's Word (Psalm 119:97).

Conclusion:

1. Have you been raised with Christ?
2. If you have been raised with Christ, where is your affection?
  - a. Is your affection "*on things above?*"
  - b. Is your affection "*on things on the earth?*"
3. If we are raised with Christ and set our affection on things above, we have the hope mentioned in Colossians 3:4.