

February 8, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Col. 3:1-4 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.* (NIV)

Part of being free in Christ is seeing things from the proper perspective. I believe the first admonition of the LORD is to **look up!** We need to be focusing on Him instead of upon the things of this world. They distract us, but He attracts us. To focus on Him means to realize that He is now our life. We have placed our lives into His more than capable hands and we must then live with our hearts removed from directing ourselves. He is our salvation and more importantly, He is our LORD. This means He is in complete control, and we are not. If we continue to look at this world instead of Him, it limits our view and our faith.

The second part in looking with the proper perspective is to **look out!** By this I mean to see things clearly. We must be truthful about our sin. We cannot continue to fool ourselves into believing that they don't matter. We must live with the attitude of confession and repentance. This brings us to a point of seeing our sinful nature as powerless and dead compared to our life in Christ. His blood has covered all our sins and His forgiveness is complete. This gives us clarity as we look at this world.

The third and most critical part of perspective is to **look in!** We need to see ourselves as He sees us. He no longer sees us as sinful, broken and lost. Instead, we are new creations and we have been set apart. **Eph. 2:10** *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* (NIV) We have been clothed with His purpose, becoming like Him. I like this quote from **Warren Wiersbe**: "*We were formed in God's image and deformed from His image by sin. But through Jesus Christ, we can be transformed into God's image once again.*"

Dear LORD, we are now made new in Your image. Help us to look up and focus on You. Help us to look out and see things from your perspective instead of our own. Help us to look in and see ourselves as completely whole and clean and forgiven. In Jesus Name, Amen