

The Implications of the Resurrection

Colossians 3:1-4

By Phillip G. Kayser at DCC on 4-12-2009

I believe it was in my Grandpa's generation that an immigrant by the name of Marcus moved from Greece to Cambridge, Pennsylvania. He was very excited about his new homeland. When he got here he couldn't speak a word of English, but he found a number of Greek speaking friends. And one of them was a lady named Alexandra. She introduced him to some of her friends and told him that she wanted him to meet a non-Greek friend of hers. She took him to the office of an American gentleman and started talking in English. Like I said, he didn't understand a word that was going on, but he tried to be polite and he would nod attentively in the conversation. He felt a little uncomfortable when the man asked him some questions but with encouragement from Alexandra, Marcus said "yes" and "I do" at the proper times. Little did he realize that this was a justice of the peace and that he was now a married man.

Even after the marriage ceremony he didn't realize that he should be pursuing the goals of his new life. He didn't know that he had a new life. He soon found other friends and forgot about Alexandra for a while. But it was only for a while because the police arrested him for desertion and non-support. He eventually got things straightened around, but he learned the hard way that there are life-changing implications to being married.

Paul pointed out a similar fact to the Colossians. They weren't in the dark like Marcus was, but they were forgetting the implications of their union with Christ in His death and resurrection; that this had brought them into a totally new relationship with God. In 2:20 Paul said, **"if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourself to its regulations."** Leave that old life buried and seek the new life in Christ Jesus. If we were to use the analogy of marriage again, it would be like saying, "I want your life to revolve around your wife or your husband." I don't want you still living as if you were a bachelor. I don't want you dating other people. I don't want you throwing your underwear all over the living room floor like you used to do. I don't want you to eat your food out of the pot. Your life is changed and you need to begin to live like a married person. That is the kind of logic that He is using in terms of our union with Christ. Christ's resurrection has profound, life-changing implications. And I want to divide the application of

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this doctrine into three parts. First, the exchanged life of two thousand years ago.

I. The Exchanged Life 2000 Years Ago (3:1a)

Verse one says, "**If then you were raised with Christ**" (v. 1). I should mention first that the word "if" is not denying the reality of their being raised with Christ. In Greek there are two different words that are translated by the English "if." One expresses a degree of doubt: "If it rains next week, the picnic will be cancelled." We don't know if it will rain, so this is an "if" of uncertainty. The other Greek word is the "if" of logical deduction – "If this, then that." Some people call it the "if" of certainty. It is like saying to a man, "If you are a man, then act like a man!" Or saying to a 19 year old, "If you're 19 years old, then act like it for a change." We are not questioning the fact that the person is 19 years old or is a man. Rather we are using the certainty of that fact to try to convince the person of something. So it is the "if" of logical deduction or the "if" of certainty. And that is what we have here in Colossians. Some translations put "since" instead of "if" to clarify this point. Paul is saying, "Since you were raised with Christ then you should be doing what is outlined in these verses."

What does Paul mean when he says we have been raised with Christ? That may seem like a total mystery to you. How could we have been raised 2000 years ago when we weren't even in existence yet? Some have tried to say that this is speaking of our spiritual regeneration. And it is true that Christ's resurrection guarantees not only that we will be resurrected physically in the future, but also that our spirits will be raised to new life now. But notice that this says "with Christ." It is talking about Christ's resurrection as well as ours. When Christ was raised, we were raised with Him. This is something that happened 2000 years ago. How can that be? Well, Paul is dealing with a legal exchange that went on 2000 years ago.

I think most of you are very familiar with the legal exchange of death. Look at chapter 2:20, which says, "**If you died with Christ.**" If you can understand the first exchange, you will understand the second one better. "Why did the exchange of death need to take place?" Or another way of phrasing it is, "Why did Christ have to die in our place." God says it was the penalty for sin. God in His word tells us that we have all sinned against Him in thought, word and deed. And we have sinned not only by the things we have done, but also by the things that we have left undone. There are many duties we have neglected. There are many thoughts we will have to answer for, and Scripture makes it very clear that "**all have sinned and come short**

of the glory of God.” And **“the wages of sin is death.”** There are many people down through the years that have tried to deny that death was necessary for their sins, or that any exchange was necessary. They have thought that if their good deeds outweighed their bad deeds, they would somehow gain God’s favor. But that is much like my inviting you to our house for omelet and cracking 11 good eggs into a bowl and 2 rotten eggs and thinking that the good eggs will outweigh the bad eggs and expecting you to ignore the horrible smell and taste of the omelet. The whole omelet is ruined and becomes unfit to serve to company because of those two rotten eggs. In the same way Scripture says, **“all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags,”** and the reason is because our righteousnesses are made unfit by the sin in our life.

If this book represented all the sins that I have ever committed, no matter how close I might try to come to God by my good deeds, there is still that book of sin that makes God look with distaste upon me. Scripture says that the wicked are an abomination to God. Psalm 5:5 says, **“You hate all workers of iniquity.”** God simply cannot love and have fellowship with any of us when this book of sin separates us. God would cease to be holy if He embraced us to Himself without dealing with that sin. So how can God save anybody? How can He love anybody? And that is where the amazing concept of the exchanged death comes in. Let’s say this hand represents me, and this hand represents Christ. Sin separates me from God but Christ did something about it with His death. Isaiah 53:6 says, **“All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned, every one, to his own way; but the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** Christ willingly bore our sins and willingly bore the death that we deserve. He willingly suffered the hell of God’s wrath and gave us His righteousness so that we can now be embraced to God without contradiction. Because of the exchanged death, those who repent of their sins and put their trust in Christ no longer need to worry about the penalty of our sins.

But the point of chapter 3 is that it was not just Christ’s death that was exchanged for believers. And this is what many people have failed to understand. We are not just treated as legally having died. We are also treated as legally having risen. His exchanged death keeps us from hell. His exchanged resurrection gives us the legal right to live in His presence. There needed to be a legal basis for Christ to live His life through us. Man died both spiritually and physically as a result of Adam’s sin, and Christ’s resurrection formed the basis for renewing us spiritually and physically. 1 Corinthians 15:16-17 says, **“For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your**

sins.” Without the resurrection you would still be in your sins. His resurrection was critical for the giving of new life to us. Romans 5:10 refers to both exchanges: **“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”** Christ’s resurrection and our new life are bound together. Therefore, the resurrection of Christ 2000 years ago provided that legal basis for our spiritual and physical life.

II. The Ongoing Exchange Of Life (3:1b-3)

Let’s move on to look at Roman numeral II. And this is where I am going to focus most of my attention. But Paul goes on to show how this exchanged life was not only a legal action in the past (**“we were raised with Christ”** our substitute), but is also an ongoing reality. Once a person places his faith in Christ, there is an ongoing exchange that takes place. **“If then you were raised with Christ”** [that’s in the past tense. That’s already happened. This is not a command. This is a fact. You *were* raised. It’s not something you need to work at. It’s already happened. But, the next words are commands, and they all relate to the present tense. As a result of that past fact, we have a present imperative or command in life], **“seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”** (vv. 1-3)

The police weren’t telling Marcus he had to get married. They were telling him that he needed to live consistently with the new life he had entered. Now unlike Marcus, we know we have a new life, but we still deny that fact by our living many times. We fail to live by the power of the resurrected Christ indwelling us. We fail to take advantage of the benefits of our new life.

Because these verses have been so often misinterpreted, I want to spend a little time letting you know what these verses do not mean. Some people think that Paul wants us to spend as much time in prayer and meditation as possible. Now don’t get me wrong. Prayer is critical, as we will be seeing in a moment. But it is not prayer & meditation to the exclusion of the rest of life. What Paul is talking about here is to be our *whole* life – 24-7. This faulty interpretation says that we should meditate on heaven and the life hereafter, and non-physical things rather than having our mind dwelling on things like diapers, jobs and marital relations. They say that these are earthly things that supposedly drag us away from a spiritual walk with God. Consistently held, this is an interpretation that would make

a person go off to a monastery. And even in a monastery it would be impossible to apply this consistently. So this interpretation advocates an escape from the world rather than a conquest of the world. Those are two totally different interpretations.

But I want you to notice that Paul has given his own interpretation of what he means by the phrases “things above” and “things on the earth.” The phrase “the things on the earth” of verse 2 is identical in the Greek to the phrase “which are on the earth” in verse 5. So verse 5 is defining verse 2. It says literally, “**Therefore put to death your members, the things which are on the earth.** Now what are those things? Are they things like marriage, cars, family and friends? Is that what we are to put to death? No, they are all sins that are listed. They are all a part of our old life that Christ died to save us from. Let’s read verses 5-10.

Colossians 3:5 ¶ Therefore put to death your members, [the things] which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

Colossians 3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Colossians 3:8 ¶ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

The things which are on the earth is the independent living that we inherited from Adam, the things which are above is the dependent living which we have inherited from the New Adam or the New Man, Jesus. Just like there was an exchange that happened legally 2000 years ago, there is an actual exchange that is going on right now; the new man for the old man. By the way, Adam and Man are the same thing. The word Adam is the Aramaic word for man. The Old Man is our old identity that flows out of the first Adam and is manifested in our sinful independent nature. The new man is our new identity that flows from the Second Adam, or Christ. And we are to exchange His life for our old life. We are to seek the new life in Christ and put off the old life of the world. Verse 5: “put to death the things on the earth;” verse 8: “put off sin;” verse 9: “put off the old man.” And in exchange for that, verse 9 says, “put on the new man;” verse 12: “put on

tender mercies, kindness, etc.” and in the following verses on through to 4:6 he tells them to be exchanging their old life for the new life in Christ in such things as godly marriage relationships, family life and a faithful service to an employer. So both the things below and the things above are relating to your cars, houses, spouses, children, etc in two totally different ways. So this is not escapism. This is transformation of life upon planet earth.

In what way then is fornication a thing on the earth and a godly marriage relationship a thing that we seek from above? Clearly it is not that one is physical and the other is non-physical. They both relate to physical things. Rather, the contrast that Paul is drawing out is a contrast between natural living and supernatural living in our day-by-day life here on terra firma. Paul does not want us to be so heavenly minded (in the sense of thinking only about the future) that we are of no earthly good. He doesn't want monasteries and communes that escape from life. Otherwise the rest of the chapter and chapter 4 would be a total contradiction. Rather, he wants us to be so heavenly minded (this time in the right sense of finding our life in Christ) that our lives are revolutionized and we desire to do everything in a way that pleases Him; and we do everything His way, and we do everything by His power, whether it is marriage, family or business. Look at verse 17: **“And whatever you do [that’s pretty comprehensive, isn’t it? – “And whatever you do”] in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”** Paul is reaffirming the Dominion Mandate of Genesis 1, but he is saying that we must do it with the empowerment of Jesus, the Second Adam. Everything in life must be transformed by seeking those things that are above. We are praying, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Turn to Galatians 2:19-20. It is a parallel verse that will help to spell out why we are to be so focused on heaven, where Christ is. **For I through the law [he is going to be talking about a legal exchange] died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; [that’s all in the past tense. Now look at the ongoing exchanged life] it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

This is the genius of the exchanged life. When Colossians 3-4 tells us how to live as godly husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, children, servants and masters, He isn't telling us to do it in our own strength. He is telling us to ask for the resources that Christ has purchased for us; to find our strength from above; to get our wisdom from Christ; to look to Him in everything that we do. We can no more live the Christian life by ourselves than we can be saved by ourselves. It's not just justification that is by faith.

Sanctification, service and the Dominion Mandate is by faith as well. Christ provides everything for us, and what he provides is utterly practical. Now don't get me wrong: He is not opposing our effort. James makes it clear that faith works. But it is the source of your energy that is in question. Is it from Adam or from Christ?

Now it is very easy for Christians to fool themselves into thinking they are Christians by having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. Outwardly they are Christians, but they don't have the power of Christ. Let me illustrate. Picture a room full of people. Some are deaf and some are not. You see a man tapping his feet, clicking his fingers and really getting into the music. A deaf man sees him really enjoying himself and decides that he wants to have the fulfilled life too. He sits down beside the man who can hear and begins to imitate him by tapping his feet, clicking his fingers and moving. He thinks to himself, "This isn't really all its cut out to be, but it's O.K." Now a third man enters the scene and looks at these two men. If he hears the music, he can tell immediately that the movements of one come from within and the movements of the other are mere conformity. Right?

Unfortunately, some people are Christians by going through all the actions. But they are still deaf and blind. They are living the Christian life by the power of the first Adam, not by the power of Jesus. They want the fulfilled life, so they try to be a Christian. They go to all the meetings, they learn doctrine, they pray, but they don't have the life. They still find themselves dry and spiritually barren. In fact, they have tried to be spiritual so many times without success that they decide that they better just continue to go through the forms rather than let everybody know that they are dry. But that misses the whole point of the exchanged life. Verse 4 says, "**Christ is our life.**" Hendriksen comments that this means that Christ is the source and pattern for our lives. He not only tells us what to do, but also provides the life to live it. All Christians realize that salvation is by grace alone, but too many try to live the Christian life on their own, and they are miserable and tired and discouraged as a result. They are Christians, but they are not experiencing this second point of the exchanged life.

What Paul is saying is that grace is not just a legal exchange 2000 years ago that we receive in justification. That's a wonderful blessing, but there is so much more. It is a practical exchange that we can experience every minute of every day. Because some people lack the power to conquer sin, find joy, overcome Satan, they have come up with a theology that says, "Don't worry about it. Focus on your legal exchange 2000 years ago. Find joy in your justification. Don't worry about present power." True- this

theology has helped some people to quit being legalists, to quit being depressed by the accusations of the evil one, and to find joy. So I am not knocking it. But that's only half of the story of the cross. Grace includes the wonderful doctrines of justification, adoption, and the incredible legal exchange involved in that. But Grace continues with the doctrine of sanctification and the personal exchange that should be happening 24-7. 2 Peter 1:3 tells us, "**His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.**" In fact, I highly recommend that you study 2Peter 1. It's a marvelous passage. In Christ we have everything that we need. But are you getting it? 2Peter 1 tells us that sometimes Christians forget about this exchanged life and end up being barren and powerless. In contrast, Christ said that He came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly. So our goal in life is to pursue Christ, and His power, and His resources, and not be satisfied without Him.

Paul said on one occasion, "**But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed - always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.**" He's talking about power for living. Can you see that? – "that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body." That's what I want for you – not just a legal declaration in a courtroom that you are saved. That's a wonderful thing for a criminal to be declared not guilty. But what about the rest of His life? It's Christ living in me. The thing that made Paul able to face incredible adversity was the exchanged life. When you read Romans 8:31-39 from the perspective of the exchanged life, it will take on new meaning. Paul said,

Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Perhaps you feel like less than conquerors. Then it may be that you have been trying to live the Christian life on your own. We really only have two options: to live our new life by the strength that we received from the Old Adam (that's default; and many times we fall back into the default), or to live by the strength we receive from the New Adam (that's not default – that's living by faith; walking by faith). Ask yourself this question: "Do you live most of your day, and do you do most of your work as if you didn't need Christ for the things that you do?" If so, then your mind is set on things on the earth. You're living independently. Do you do your dishes just because they have to be done, or do you do them as a service to Christ? That is the difference that Colossians is driving at.

One of the things that revolutionized my life in twelfth grade was that I began to have a constant awareness of God's presence and power no matter where I was or what I was doing. Prior to that this concept would not have made sense to me. I was like that deaf man pretending to hear the music and pretending to be fulfilled. But there came a time when I got spiritual ears – or at least learned how to use them. It was an attitude of prayer, though prayers were not always verbalized. I began to talk to God naturally about the things that I was doing moment by moment, or when not talking, realizing that He was watching how I was working, and trying to do my work in a way pleasing to Him. I had a constant sense of my need for Him. This is what Calvin called “living *Coram Deo*,” which is a Latin phrase meaning, “living *Before The Face of God*.” Wherever there is faith, there is an awareness of God's presence, and whatever is not of faith is sin according to Romans 14:23. Hebrews 11 says that without faith it is impossible to please God. Let me repeat that: Wherever there is faith, there is an awareness of God's presence, and whatever is not of faith is sin according to Romans 14:23. Hebrews 11 says that without faith it is impossible to please God. This is why in my leadership training I emphasize intimacy with Christ. Some people wonder why I spend so much time on that. It's because I don't want you to be like that deaf man. Paul said, “**Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**” (1 Cor. 10:31).

Here's a self-evaluation question: Does your 40-hour a week job pull you away from Christ? It need not. Christ was a carpenter for most of His first 30 years. There is nothing unspiritual about those types of things. You don't have to go to a monastery to live like Christ. Christ didn't go to a monastery. He was a carpenter. You can be a carpenter. Carpentry is *not* one of the “things on the earth” that Paul is talking about. But some carpenters don't do their carpentry like Jesus did. Listen to Jesus' words: He said, “**The Son can do nothing by Himself . . . Rather it is the Father living in Me who is doing the work.**” (John 5:19; 14:10) Why does 1 Thessalonians 5:17 say that we are to **pray without ceasing**? Because there is never a time during the day when our need for Christ diminishes. Christ told His disciples, “**Without Me, you can do nothing.**” Everything done from the Old Adam will be burned up as hay, wood and stubble. Only what's done by, for, and through Christ will last. And praise God, we can do dishes, landscaping, roof removal, candy machines by, for, and through Christ.

When we take our eyes off of Christ, then immediately the issues of jobs and diapers and dishes begin to flow from the Old Man. That's just the default. When our eyes of faith are on Christ, then those same issues become the fruit of Christ. He said, “**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch**

cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5) The only way we can live a life that is pleasing to God is if Christ is living it out through us. Everything else will be burned up. The doctrine of the resurrection means we have a living Savior and He wants us to experience life more abundant in Him.

So when Colossians 3 says, **seek those things which are above where Christ is . . . Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth**, Paul is telling us that we need to be in a constant attitude of dependence. You need to be brought to the place where you can always say, when you do the dishes, when you wash the garage, when you witness **“it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”**

If this is all mysterious to you, ask God to open your eyes and enable you to enter into the exciting exchange of resurrection life that is available moment by moment. There is no need to limp and struggle through the Christian life on our own. Galatians 3:3 says, **“Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”** You could paraphrase that this way: Are you so foolish? Having experienced point I by the power of the Second Adam, are you trying to live point II by the power of the first Adam? Our flesh, our old man, is not capable of living the new life in Christ. All it can do is the imitation of that deaf man who was clicking his fingers and imitating something that he had never personally experienced. When the Spirit indwells a person, he brings the life of Christ powerfully to bear. Ephesians 1:19 says, **“and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”** The same power that raised Christ from the dead, is the resurrection power that we are to claim by faith to work in us. And that in no way conflicts with our effort. Earlier in Colossians Paul said in chapter 1:29, **To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.** Both are true. Paul never advocates passivity. Rather he advocates looking to Christ continually as we labor and strive. It is Christ’s resurrection life that enabled Paul to say, **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”** And I hope each of you can say that this morning because you have the resurrected Christ indwelling you powerfully.

So we have looked in point I at a legally exchanged life that happened 2000 years ago. What a blessing! What an incredible blessing! It means justification, adoption, privilege, and security. In point II we looked at an actually exchanged life that should happen moment by moment. This is sanctification, transformed thinking, and a Dominion Mandate done by a new power. Point III speaks of an exchanged life that will happen on judgment day in the future.

III. The Future Exchanged Life (3:3-4)

Colossians 3:4 says, **“When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”** The exchanged life must be true for all eternity because it is only as we are hidden in Christ that there will be safety for us when Christ returns for judgment. As 2 Thessalonians says, when He **“is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God (2 Thes. 1:7f).** That is the return in glory. And that is an amazing way for Paul to end this section. Not only are we saved in Christ, and empowered to live our new life in Christ, but also we will even be able to judge the world in Christ. 1 Cor. 6:2 says, **“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?”** That’s why we can return with Christ in glory. Each one of us is worthy of judgment ourselves, but because of Christ, and His righteousness, God will give us the privilege of returning for this judgment. What amazing grace that turns criminals into righteous judges! Amazing grace how sweet the sound! Do you see how Christ is all in all? Can you see why verse 3 says, **“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God”?** Let me end by reading Christ’s description of the judgment scene in **Matthew 25.**

Matthew 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Matthew 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

Matthew 25:33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

Matthew 25:36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Matthew 25:37 ¶ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

Matthew 25:38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

Matthew 25:39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

Matthew 25:41 ¶ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

Matthew 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Matthew 25:44 ¶ "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

Matthew 25:45 Then He will answer them, saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.'

Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The bottom line is that seeking the risen life means seeking Jesus. If you are an unbeliever this morning, then you are still in the old world, the old way of living and are outside of Jesus. It means that you are still in danger of eternal judgment. I would plead with you not to rest until you have embraced Jesus and trusted Him for your salvation both now and for all of eternity.

And if you are a believer but can't honestly say with Paul that you know anything about the exceeding greatness of His power within you, then lay claim to your present benefits. Study 2Peter 1. It says that we can forget

and become nearsighted, barren and powerless. It gives steps to avoid that. Don't live inconsistently like Marcus did. Some people present eternal life as pie in the sky bye and bye. But Paul wants us to begin slicing that pie and enjoying it right now. May each one of you do so. Amen.

If you want what I have just preached, I would encourage you to pray along with me the prayer that I am going to read. I will read it in the first person. Virtually every phrase is taken from Scripture. By faith you can say your "Amen" to this prayer and make it your own personal prayer.

Prayer for the Filling of the Spirit

By Phillip G Kayser

Father, your word has promised that if we ask for the Spirit, you will give of the Spirit far more readily than parents give the necessities of life to their children. I lay claim to the "how much more" of Luke 11:13 and ask that you would give to me an extra portion of the Spirit's presence for today. I need the Spirit because you have commanded me to "walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16) in everything that I do. Help me to "sing in the Spirit" (1 Cor. 14:15), to "worship...in the Spirit" (Phil. 3:3) and to "rejoice in the Holy Spirit" (1 Thes. 1:6; Rom. 14:17). Please help me to "pray in the Spirit" (Jude 20; Eph. 6:18) since I do not know what I should pray for as I ought (Rom. 8:26). Help me to "love in the Spirit" (Col. 1:18), be "led by the Spirit" (Matt. 4:1; Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18), be "moved by the Spirit" (Luke 2:27), be "compelled by the Spirit" (Acts 20:22 NIV) and to have my "mind controlled by the Spirit" (Rom. 8:6). May every part of me be controlled by the Spirit (Rom. 8:6,9) so that I might "live in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25; Rom. 8:13). I want to be taught by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:13), to speak by the Spirit since "no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:3). Wash and sanctify me by the Spirit (1 Cor. 6:11).

I know that Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17-20 is according to your will, and I ask that the reality of your transforming power would work in my life today:

... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His

mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places...

I do not ask this because I deserve it, but because I am united to Christ and He has purchased everything that is necessary to my full enjoyment of the Spirit. I ask it simply because you have promised the Spirit to those who come in faith (Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:13). Thank you for your gracious gift, Father. I love you and praise you. May the Spirit cause me to glorify you today.

Lord Jesus, you are the vine and we are the branches (John 15:1-8). I acknowledge that my life flows from you, and that without you I can do nothing (v. 5). I know that you were given the Holy Spirit “without measure.” I ask that you would release your life into my life that I might bear fruit. Release your strength, wisdom, healing [etc.] to meet the needs of this day. You have said that all who drink of you will never thirst since they will have within them a fountain of living water that never grows dry (John 4:14). I need that for my dryness. I lay claim to your promise in John 7:37-39:

...If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Lord, since you have been glorified, and everything necessary has been done that we might receive the Spirit, I pray that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon me today. This passage says that “anyone” who thirsts may come to drink and will receive. Lord, I come to you and I now drink of you. Thank you for your gift of the Spirit. Thank you for your life giving waters.

Holy Spirit, I invite you now to baptize me afresh with the fire of your love. I want to know you, not just know about you. I want to experience your presence in my life. I give myself to you and ask that you would give yourself to me. I need your power in my life. Please come, and fill me now. Come into my life as the “Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD” (Is. 11:2). I need those things in my life. I am your bondservant and I come humbly to be controlled and moved by you. Whatever giftings you want to pour out in my life today (1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:7ff; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Pet. 4:9-11), I gladly receive and determine now to use to the glory of the Father. I will not limit your gifts by my perceptions of what I can

handle, or what I need. I receive your sovereign will to give as you please. Work in me mightily to the glory of God.

Fill me with your gracious fruit. Help me to walk in the Spirit that I might not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. I lay claim to your supernatural love that can love the unlovable. I lay claim to your joy of the Lord, which is my strength. I lay claim to Your peace that passes all understanding; your longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Help me to do everything today by your working, that you would replace my evil thinking with the mind of Christ, my rebellious will with the will of Christ, my unruly emotions with the compassion of Christ.

Flow through me to minister to others. Please flood the deepest places of my life, washing away the filth and replacing it with the righteousness of Christ. Cleanse my wounds that still tend to dominate my thoughts and are keeping me from emotional freedom. Help me to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.

I want to learn more and more what it means to walk in the Spirit. May I not lift so much as a straw from the ground without your presence, love and approval. By faith, I thank you even now that you have answered this prayer and have poured out your Spirit in my life. Praise be to your name! Praise be to your name! I love you and thank you. In Jesus name, Amen.

Charge:

I have one more thought that I want to leave with you. Isaiah promises that the earth will be full of the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the ocean beds. But that can only happen as individuals are full of the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the ocean beds. The corporate is just made up of many individuals who have experienced the same thing. This is encouraging to me because it means that we have talked about is possible for us to experience individually. So with that as a background, let me give you my charge: Children of God, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.” Amen.

The Implications of the Resurrection
Colossians 3:1-4

By Phillip G. Kayser at DCC on 4-12-2009

I. The Exchanged Life 2000 Years Ago (3:1a)

II. The Ongoing Exchange Of Life (3:1b-3)

III. The Future Exchanged Life (3:3-4)