

BIG IDEA: Set our minds on things that are above**1) INTRO**

- Start w/ a question: What are the 3 things you think about the most?
 - As we reflect these can be diff for all of us
 - Money, work, sleep, food, relationships, sports, books/other entertainment, future plans, upcoming holiday, cars, pleasing others, etc
 - We all have lots of time to think about things
 - We think about the things that matter to us most
 - We’re to set our minds on heavenly things/godly things/gospel things
- BIG IDEA

2) COLOSSIANS RECAP & v1

- Paul wrote Colossians...he’d never been there
 - He knew about them...one of “his” churches
 - To continue in the truth of JC & a warning false teaching
 - 1) The supremacy & sufficiency of JC
 - 2) Religious rules & regulations don’t save you
 - False teachers were telling them that JC isn’t enough
 - They were feeling inadequate
 - See some of these 2:16-19...legalism
 - Food, drink, festivals, ascetic/self-punishment, worship of angles, focus on visions rather than God’s Word
 - We have books, blog posts, social media accounts, radio shows, tv shows – flooding us w/ such things
 - Lots of voices trying to speak to us
 - But, JC is enough [Gospel explanation]
 - Saved when we believe in him/submit & surrender to him
- We’re now alive w/ him
 - We’ve died to the “elemental spirit of the world” (2:20)...what’s earthly in us (3:5ff)
 - vv 5 & 8

- Were walking in sin...but, not anymore in JC
- We’ll be grateful that God’s saved sinful people like us
 - Gratitude fuels obedience to God...b/c we’re saved
 - We desire to be changed by the HS
 - And to live diff...b/c we’re raised/alive
- v1 – “if” trans. “since/because” we’re raised we seek heavenly things
 - Our focus shifts to seeking all that has to do w/ exalting JC and his sov reign over all
 - Earthly things lose their taste
 - We’ll now seek the glory of God, the exaltation of JC, & walking in the HS (following and obeying God)
 - “Seek” is present imperative – it’s continuous, ongoing effort
 - Persistent in seeking God
 - Kent Hughes – “we are not to be seeking heavenly geography, but the One who dwells there.”
 - It’s to set out minds on JC
 - Our Savior, who saves sinful, lost, wicked people like us
 - When we’re dead to sin & alive in JC – and the HS’s in us – we will

3) SET YOUR MINDS (v2)

- Command to set minds on things above, not on things on earth
- Many things can distract us/grab ahold of our minds...attention
 - Good – family, work, ministry, service,
 - Bad – hurts, pains, difficult relationships, financial stress,
- Many things in our daily lives
 - Household tasks – caring for children/grandchildren, figuring out another meal to cook, vacuuming/sweeping, cleaning toilets
 - Work tasks – meetings to prepare for, appointments to keep, deadlines to meet
- Our mindset is a deliberate act of our will
 - When we set our minds to something, we do it
 - Set mind to getting new tennis shoes after 6 yrs – researched best shoes I could get within our budget...took time, effort, energy

- But w/ the HS's help we can!
- Begins w/ prayer – “Lord, set my mind on you/things above”
 - A great morning prayer & throughout the day
 - Begins w/ asking God
 - When we ask in line w/ his Word, he grants it to us
 - Bible doesn't show that God wants us to have a new car, but does show where God wants our minds
 - We're to pray that God will give us this mindset...and he will!
 - Pray he'll transform us by the renewing of our minds
- The Word – we need to be changed and transformed by the Word
 - MacArthur – “heavenly thoughts can only come by understanding heavenly realities from Scripture”
 - If we're not immersed in the Word, we're not going to walk in ways that please & honor & glorify God
 - B/c we're not gonna know how
 - Just as a manuals show us how to do things - a new kitchen appliance or assembly instructions for a desk or a new toy – the Bible shows us how to live God's way/how to live w/ our minds on things that glorify God, exalt Christ, and walk in HS
 - Big way is relationships – w/ God & others
- The HS helps to live with minds set on JC & the Gospel in our relationships – both w/ believers & unbelievers
 - 1) Believers/each other
 - We'll be grace-filled people, quick to forgive, slow to anger
 - We'll want things right w/ each other & confess sins
 - Chandler malignant brain tumor
 - 1 Cor 13:4-7
 - 2) Unbelievers
 - We'll want make JC known...share the good news
 - Look for opportunities to tell others of JC who's saved undeserving people like us...and he will them too
 - Let's speak the good news & let our light shine
 - It's been said of some Christians “It's no surprise that the world does not know they belong to Christ b/c they do not act or think like it”
 - May we boldly shine for JC

- What's the worst that will happen to us? We'll be ridiculed, made fun of?
- May we hold loosely to our reputation or how others might view us...and instead focus on how God views of us
 - We're not to set our minds on the things of this earth – material things, but also immaterial things like earthly honors, position, advancement, or other's perceptions
 - Instead, let's set our minds on how we'll please God in cherishing the gospel & living out the gospel
 - In living out the Great Commission

4) YOU HAVE DIED (vv3-4)

- When we've died to sin, our lives will be lived as alive in JC...raised
- Our citizenship is now in heaven where we'll be in perfect relationship w/ our eternal God
 - Our lives are hidden w/ Christ in God – we're eternally secure

5) CLOSING

- Essentially what we see here is to have minds focused on the gospel and in living out the gospel
- Spurgeon – “Time is short. Eternity is long. It is only reasonable that this short life be lived in the light of eternity.”
 - How are we doing living in the light of eternity?
 - Is our focus on the here and now?
 - Or do we live with eternity in mind? Setting our minds on things above – on glorifying God, exalting JC, walking in HS?
 - May we set our minds on things above – on God himself