

**THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS**  
**COLOSSIANS 3:1-4**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The book of Colossians places emphasis on Jesus as the authority and head of the church. (Col. 1.18).
2. Colossians 3.1-4 reminds us that Jesus is to be more than just a priority. He is to be our lives. [Read]

**I. PAST**

- A. We were raised with Him.
  1. **COLOSSIANS 3.1:** *"If then you were raised with Christ"*
  2. At one time, we were dead because of sin, but God raised us up through grace. (Eph. 2.1)
- B. We died to sin.
  1. **COLOSSIANS 3.3:** *"For you died"*
  2. When we were baptized, we were raised back to life and became separated from sin. (Col. 2.11-13; Rom. 6.1-3)

**II. PRESENT**

- A. We are to seek a home in heaven.
  1. **COLOSSIANS 3.1:** *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above"*
  2. Why would we seek a home heaven? It is *"where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."* (Col. 3.1)
  3. The comfort of heaven is knowing that *"we shall always be with the Lord"* (1 Thess. 4.13,17).
- B. We are to set our minds on things above.
  1. **COLOSSIANS 3.2:** *"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."*
  2. "Set" (phroneo) carries the idea of focus.
  3. We are not to give attention to the things of the world *"for you died"* (Col. 3.3; Matt. 6.19-21).
  4. What makes Hell a place of unimaginable torment and Heaven a place of unimaginable beauty? (2 Thess. 1.8,9)

**CONCLUSION:** If we have been baptized (past) and are living a Christ-centered life (present), then our future home is secure.

**NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**                      **JULY 10, 2022**  
**2424 McCARRAN ST.**  
**NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031**  
**(702) 642-3141**                      **WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM**

# NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030  
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: [Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com](mailto:Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com)  
Be sure to watch us live at [www.nlvchurchofchrist.com](http://www.nlvchurchofchrist.com)  
Facebook: [nlvchurchofchrist](https://www.facebook.com/nlvchurchofchrist)

*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*  
-Mark 16.15

**July 10, 2022**

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**MEETING TIMES:**

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**  
**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

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## CHILDREN OF LIGHT

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul wrote, *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light"* (Eph. 5.8). In this verse there is reflection, inspection, and direction.

First of all, there is reflection. Paul writes that *"you were once in darkness."* What does it mean to be *"darkness?"* A few chapters earlier, we are told that these were individual who were *"dead in trespasses and sins."* They *"once walked according to the course of this world"* (Eph. 2.1,2). These were individuals whose past decisions had violated the laws of God and as a result were spiritually dead. Thus they were *"darkness."*

Secondly, there is inspection. Paul looks at their current state, and writes, *"but now you are light in the Lord."* Where does one get light? A few verses later, Paul writes that *"Christ will give you light"* (Eph. 5.14). They became light when they became followers of Christ.

Third, there is direction. Since they were no longer darkness, but are now light because of Jesus, they were directed to *"walk as children of light."* They bear the fruit of the Spirit (Eph. 5.9). They no longer participate in the works of darkness (Eph. 5.10). Are you a child of light (1 John 1.5-7)?

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## WHY WE NEED THE GRACE OF GOD

### PSALM 51:1

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. When we sin, God sees us as a rebel, polluted by the world, and failing to keep His commandments.
2. It is only when we understand the extent of our guilt that we can fully appreciate the grace of God.
3. In Psalm 51, we learn what the grace of God can do for us.

#### I. WHAT GRACE IS

- A. The components of grace. (Eph. 2.4-8)
  1. Grace involves the mercy of God. (Eph. 2.4; Luke 6.36)
  2. Grace involves the love of God. (Eph. 2.4; 1 John 4.8)
  3. Grace involves the kindness of God. Literally, His goodness. (Eph. 2.7; Rom. 2.4; 11.22)
- B. The conduit of grace.
  1. Four times, reference is made to Jesus. (Eph. 2.5-7,10)
  2. Grace is made available through Jesus. (John 14.6)
  3. Offered to all but only through Jesus. (Titus 2.11)
- C. The condition of grace.
  1. **EPHESIANS 2.8:** “...through faith”
  2. I can only access grace with obedient faith. (Rom. 5.1,2)

#### II. WHAT GRACE DOES

- A. Grace erases my guilt.
  1. **PSALM 51.1:** “Blot out my transgressions” (v. 9)
  2. My sin separates me from God, but grace separates me from my sin. (Isa. 59.2)
- B. Grace renders me spotless. (cf. 2 Kings 5.14)
  1. **PSALM 51.2:** “Wash me thoroughly...” (v. 7)
  2. The blood of Jesus cleanses me. (1 John 1.7)
- C. Grace brings joy and gladness to my life.
  1. **PSALM 51.8:** “Make me hear joy and gladness”
  2. The grace of God makes me happy again.
- D. Grace restores my fellowship with God.
  1. **PSALM 51.11,12:** “renew a steadfast spirit within me”
  2. I am only restored because of God’s grace. (1 Tim. 1.14)
- E. Grace makes me evangelistic. (Ps. 51.12,13; Ps. 66.16)

**CONCLUSION:** When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

## ARE THE DEAD STILL ALIVE?

What happens when someone dies? There are endless theological and philosophical debates about the condition of those who have passed away. Some suggest that they cease to exist. Others insist that they are in an unconscious “sleep” state. It is easy to answer the question when we turn our attention to the words given to us by the One who created us. The One who infused the physical body with an eternal soul has plenty to say about the condition of the dead.

We find several references in the Bible about the spiritually dead. Indeed, the Bible refers to those who are alive physically but dead spiritually. For example, the apostle Paul wrote about widows saying, “*she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives*” (1 Tim. 5.6). He is alive physically, but dead spiritually. We find similar language in Ephesians 2.1 about those who were “*dead in trespasses and sins.*” We were separated from God (dead) because of the sins we invited into our lives. But it is equally true that the dead are alive.

Think about the words of Jesus in Mark 12. It is there that Jesus is locked in a doctrinal battle with the Sadducees who did not believe in the existence of a soul or the coming resurrection (cf. Act 23.8). After presenting Jesus with a scenario attempting to demonstrate the absurdity of the resurrection, Jesus replied with this statement: “*But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken*” (Mark 12.26,27).

There are two observations that stand out to me. First, Jesus said that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I find it extremely comforting to know God is still the God of His people who have stepped into eternity. Their names may be removed from our directory, but they are still His people whose names are registered on the heavenly directory (Heb. 12.23).

Second, Jesus said that God is the God of the living. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob died thousands of years prior to Jesus making this statement. Yet they were still alive – living in the Hadean world. Those who have gone on before us are still alive, conscious, and living in the eternal plane waiting for the second coming of Christ. And in that, we can find great comfort.

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