

Sermon Series: “Easter’s Glow in Our Lives” – Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN — 5/3/2009
Title: “An Easter World-view–Now and Later”
Text: Colossians 2:20 – 3:4
Intro.: *Illus: What’s on your mind?”*
Theme: When the starting point of our thinking process begins in a living Savior who has redeemed our lives in the kingdom of heaven, you and I will begin to prioritize things according to how they support that life which matters.

Be aware of what’s competing for your Christ-mind! (Colossians 2:20)

- **A god-less world**
 1. Removing God from the town square so that morality and direction can be left up to the highest bidder
 2. Removing God from our bedrooms so freedom of perversion can be practiced to enslave us to destroyed family/worth
 3. Removing the true God from our classrooms so that our kids can be given the freedom to choose, when we don’t do that in any other area of their lives
 4. **Illus.: *Hell is where God is not***
 5. *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done . . . Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:28, 32*
- **A calamitous existence**
 1. Worry over climate catastrophes and pandemic diseases that surrounds a god-forsaken world with man in control
 2. Fails to recognize that “**real life**” is found on the shores of heaven and in a born-again resurrected hope
 - a. *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3*
- **A legalistic bent**
 1. In a panic to bring order back to a sin-chaotic world, rules and laws are made which only fuel lawlessness
 2. **Colossians 2:20-23**
- **A hedonistic addiction** – “*indulge in the passion and pleasures to the max to deaden the pain of reality*”
 1. **1 Corinthians 15:29-34**
 2. **Illus.: Watch Out for Reversed Poles**

Disciplining your thought process and world view to seek Christ (Colossians 3:1-4)

- Keeping your eye on your real life above in Christ (*daily, ongoing basis of disciplining yourselves only to see Jesus*)
 1. *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3*
 2. Fix on his power, his grace, his purpose, and his perspective as you make decisions for today and tomorrow
 - a. Remember that his resurrection promise is: “**Nothing can separate you from God’s love in Christ.**” **Romans 8:39**
 - b. “**Nothing compares to the glory which shall be revealed in us in the resurrection.**” **Romans 8:18**
- Intentionally practicing a thought process immersed in Christ
 1. First of all, have you prayed it up?
 - a. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6*
 - b. Before you decide, act, react — ask yourself the question: “Have I involved Christ’s mind in my plan?”
 2. Secondly, have you considered the eternal consequences of your choice, decision, investment, and plan? (**vs. 2**)
 - a. *“This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:21*
 - b. It is tempting to think that the things of this life are all there is; yet,
 3. Finally, have you devoted your passion to the end of the journey not so much the road you travel to get there (**v 3,4**)
 - a. **Illus.: Planning for our summer vacation – anticipation, fore-thought, and planning**

What's On Your Mind

Google's Zeitgeist is an online resource that tracks the most commonly used Internet search terms every day. In its 2006 Year-End Google Zeitgeist report, the company listed the following as the ten most popularly searched items of the year (in descending order):

1. Paris Hilton
2. Orlando Bloom
3. Cancer
4. Podcasting
5. Hurricane Katrina
6. Bankruptcy
7. Martina Hingis
8. Autism
9. 2006 NFL Draft
10. "Celebrity ...

2006 Year-End Google Zeitgeist, www.google.com

Watch Out for Reversed Poles

If you have ever done any navigating by the use of map and compass, you know that magnetic north isn't true north. Magnetic north is slowly moving, and some scientists think that the Earth's magnetic poles actually reverse every 10,000 to million years or so. While the poles are reversing themselves, there may be a time when there is more than one North or South Pole. How is that for confusing? The good news is that the switch shouldn't cause a catastrophe. But if you are counting on your compass when it happens...you could end up in the opposite direction. The same can be true if your spiritual poles reverse themselves. That's why Scripture calls us to, "set your minds and keep them set on what is above, not on the things that are on the Earth." **source:**

www.psc.edu/science/Glatzmaier/glatzmaier.html

Colossians 2:20-23

²⁰ Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ²¹ "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? ²² These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. ²³ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

1 Corinthians 15:29-34

²⁹ Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? ³⁰ And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹ I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³ Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." ³⁴ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God--I say this to your shame.

Colossians 3:1-4

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. [NASB]