

Series: Making the Holidays Holy Days; *Sermon:* **One**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **November 25, 2018**

Bible text explored: Colossians 3:1–4

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Have you been raised with Christ? (v.1). How does this teaching about holiness beginning with a spiritual new birth contrast with the “plausible arguments” of false teachers (Col. 2:4) about whom Paul warns the believers at Colossae?

How does understanding what we have received, and been raised *from* discredit the self-effort advocated (Col 2:8) by “human tradition”? (See also Col. 2:20-23.)

So what conscious choice are we called to make?

2. What does Paul mean by the “things that are on earth” or “what is earthly in you”? (Look at v. 5.)

How (v. 2) do we shift our focus from earthly things to things above?

What human traditions—cultural, commercial, or familial—are undermining the holy thrust that should mark the Christmas holidays?

3. What detrimental consequences does adopting earthly goals yield?

How can we trigger thought patterns that nourish spiritual health?

What steps are you taking to actively shape your mind by God’s Word?

What added steps could you take to set your mind on what pleases him?

4. What about your identity (vv. 3-4) should motivate you to pursue this mindset?

As we absorb the significance of being “hidden with Christ in God,” how should we consider our fellow Christians and ourselves?

If “Christ is our life,” why is there no need to engage in “self-discovery” to learn who we are meant to be?

How does or life being hidden with Christ in God give us security when we are under attack?

How does knowing that we will share in Christ’s glory when he is revealed, provide us motivation for pursuing holiness now?