

FOCUSING ON HEAVEN IN 2011

(Heavenly Minded)

Focus: Any center of activity, attention. To fix or settle on one thing; to concentrate; to adjust; to cause to become distinct, sharp, or defined.

*A lack of focus causes blurriness. Spiritually speaking a blurred view or vision can cause an unbalanced or disrupted life. You can also become displaced, not knowing where you are, where to go, when to go and how to go.

Not being focused can eventually, lead to double-mindedness, resulting in instability. James 1:8 declares, "*A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.*"

It seems in these last days that man has lost focus on the important things in life that causes a deficiency of positive and right judgment. They have lost focus on their family, morality, God's word and his will. Last but not least, man has lost focus on himself.

In this chapter, Paul exhorts the saints at Colosse to be heavenly minded and to continue in Christ. He encouraged them to have spiritual values and to seek for spiritual things. Paul advised them to set their affection on things above which is in heaven rather than those things which are on earth.

Things on earth are set in opposition to things above. Heaven and earth are contrary one to the other, and the prevalence of our affection to one will proportionately weaken our affection to the other.

We cannot serve two masters. Neither can bitter and sweet water come from the same fountain. Matthew 6:24 declares, "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*"

In verse 1 of Colossians chapter 3, Paul makes a statement, "*If ye then be risen with Christ,*"....

This alludes to a resurrection. (A Spiritual Resurrection).

In Galatians 2:20, he states, "*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*"

In Colossians 2:20 he speaks of being dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world. Now he is saying in Colossians 3:1, if ye be risen with Christ.

In order to focus on heaven and have your affections on things above, as opposed to the things on earth, there must be a spiritual death and a spiritual resurrection. One must be dead to sin and their lives hid with Christ in God.

The implication is not that we should not enjoy the material blessings in this world because we live in a tangible, real world. The implication is however that we should have things but not to be so obsessed with the accumulation of wealth and earthly goods to the extent that we strive more for them and not secure our eternal future.

We must keep all things in perspective. The order is: God first and everything else, secondary.