

RAISED FAR ABOVE

THIS IS OUR 3RD EASTER SUNDAY – OUR 3RD RESURRECTION SUNDAY ... BECAUSE ONE RESURRECTION SUNDAY IS NOT ENOUGH TO TELL OF EVERYTHING JESUS DID FOR US WHEN HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD!

AT THE RESURRECTION GOD RELEASED 'EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING TO US! ... SO MUCH BLESSING WE ARE STILL TRYING TO DISCOVER IT ALL.

SUNDAY 1: We saw when Jesus rose out of The Tomb ... He represented us and God declared us justified – 100% free from sin and 100% righteous forever

SUNDAY 2: We saw that when Jesus rose back to life He released to us His own New Life, which Paul tells us we can and should 'walk in' here on earth. (Romans 6:4)

But our spiritual journey didn't end there.

So this Sunday ...

SUNDAY 3: We are talking about another magnificent thing God did for us in The Resurrection of Jesus. And that is ... He raised us up **To Sit** with Him in Heavenly places ... Far Above all things ...

Ephesians 2:6 v **SLIDE**

*And [God] hath **raised us up** together [with Christ] and made us **sit together [with Christ] in heavenly places** in Christ Jesus.*

God has elevated you and me to the highest position in all eternity, FAR ABOVE THIS UNIVERSE ...

And He has seated us with The Greatest person that ever walked this earth ... whom all of Heaven praises.

Philippians 2:9 tells us God has **highly exalted** Jesus and given Him a name above every name ...

AND YOU & I ARE WITH HIM AT THE **HIGHEST LEVEL**

Ephesians 1:20-21 NKJ **SLIDE**

*... [God] raised Him [Jesus] from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places** ²¹**Far Above** all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

THIS IS OUR ETERNAL, SPIRITUAL POSITION NOW!

In the previous weeks we saw ...

- **WHAT WE ARE** – NOW LEGALLY DECLARED RIGHTEOUS
- **WHO WE ARE** – HAVING NEW LIFE IMPARTED TO US

AND TODAY WE SEE ...

- **WHERE WE ARE** – HAVING BEEN ELEVATED FAR ABOVE ...
Our Born Again spirit is no longer 'EARTH-BOUND' ... LIVING UNDER THE CLOUDS OF OPPRESSION ... AS WE USED TO BE ... & AS PEOPLE WITHOUT CHRIST STILL ARE ...

THERE IS NO GRAVITY THAT COULD HOLD YOU DOWN WHEN CHRIST LIBERATED YOU FROM THE POWERS OF THIS WORLD & ELEVATED YOU INTO HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS. WE ARE NOW MADE TO SOAR ABOVE & SETTLE ABOVE – WE HAVE BEEN SEATED ... AND THIS IS OUR HOME

But you say, how can this be when I am still walking here upon this earth? How can you say I've been raised far above?

This is a similar question to what Nicodemus asked Jesus –

John 3:4 Berean Study Bible

How can a man be born [again] when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time to born [again]?

Jesus said –

John 3:6 NKJ

That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(One is flesh of this world ...One is spirit from above)

SO WE CAN SAY HERE ... THAT WHICH IS WALKING THE EARTH IS OUR FLESH ... BUT THAT WHICH HAS BEEN RAISED FAR ABOVE IS OUR SPIRIT.

YOUR SPIRIT IS NOW SEATED WITH CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLIES ... AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER.

THIS IS A GREAT CHRISTIAN PHENOMENON

SLIDE We now *SIT* far above while we still *WALK* here below.

**THIS DESCRIBES OUR SPIRITUAL POSITION & PHYSICAL
CONDITION**

THE BELIEVER IN ALL REALITY
EXISTS IN 2 DIFFERENT REALMS AT THE SAME TIME ...
2 DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS

**NB: YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION CAN NEVER EFFECT YOUR
SPIRITUAL POSITION ...**

HOWEVER ...

**SLIDE OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION CAN & SHOULD NOW EFFECT
OUR PHYSICAL CONDITION**

SO, PAUL TELLS US THAT WE SHOULD **SEEK AND DISCOVER
WHAT WE'VE GOT & WHERE WE ARE** –
OUR NEW, TRUE SPIRITUAL POSITION

Colossians 3:1-3 NKJ **SLIDE**

*If then you were raised with Christ, **seek** those things which are
above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² **Set your
mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. ³ For you
died, and your life is hidden **with Christ in God.***

THIS ALSO TELLS US **EVERY BORN AGAIN BELIEVER HAS A
SPIRITUAL ABILITY WITHIN THEM TO REACH HEAVEN FAR
ABOVE ... TO PERCEIVE HEAVEN FAR ABOVE ... TO BEGIN TO
COMPREHEND SPIRITUAL THINGS FAR ABOVE ...**

***WE HAVE A GREAT CAPACITY TO PERCEIVE THE HEAVENLY
REALM ... TO THINK HEAVEN***

The believer's focus – desire, here and now, should be for things
above ... **to seek them and to think them** –
TO DEVELOP A HEAVENLY MINDSET.

*As Lightfoot says. 'You must not only seek heaven, you must think
heaven.*

THIS IS NOT NATURAL THINKING ... **IT IS HEAVENLY THINKING**

It is normal for a believer to focus differently and think differently to earth-bound human beings –

It's abnormal for a believer not to think differently!

GOD WANTS YOU TO DISCOVER –

- **WHERE YOU ARE**
- **WHO YOU ARE**
- **WHAT YOU'VE GOT**

GOD SAYS TO US ... 'Come on up here where you live ... you belong here with me – with Jesus ...

Come and discover everything I have given you ...

Revelation 4:1 NKJ

... Come up here and I will show you ...

WE SEEK TO DISCOVER WHERE WE ALREADY ARE ...

WE SEEK TO FIND WHAT WE'VE ALREADY GOT

NOT TO GET WHAT WE'VE ALREADY GOT

TREASURE ISLAND by Robert Louis Stevenson 1881

'Treasure Island' tells of the adventures of Jim Hawkins and his search for the buried treasure of an evil pirate, Captain Flint and Long John Silver.

THEY HAVE A TREASURE MAP & GO ON A TREASURE HUNT TO TREASURE ISLAND TO FIND A TREASURE THEY DO NOT YET HAVE.

WE ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEK TREASURE THAT IS ALREADY OURS ... WE SEEK IT'S MAGNIFICENCE ...

WE JUST HAVEN'T DISCOVERED IT YET.

- **WHAT WILL YOU FIND?**

YOU WILL FIND THE ULTIMATE SECURITY & STABILITY

Colossians 3:3 NKJ **SLIDE**

For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

You will know you are **settled and established** with Christ in God ...

Solidly secure and nothing can move you regardless of what the circumstances down here are saying.

- WHAT WILL YOU FIND?

YOU WILL FIND GREAT PEACE OF MIND

Heavenly peace will flow down into your fleshly condition ...

*We can literally be standing here on this planet with turmoil going on all around and still remain stable and still in spirit ... because we are **seated with Christ in heavenly places far above** ... in perfect peace ... knowing **GOD'S GOT US**.*

AS THE HYMN TELLS US ...

*There is a place of quiet rest ... near to **[here in]** the heart of God,
A place where sin cannot molest near to **[here in]** the heart of God.
There is a place of full release, near to **[here in]** the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace, near to **[here in]** the heart of God.*

BUT AS I HAVE ADDED, YOU ARE NOT JUST NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD ... YOU ARE WITH CHRIST IN GOD ... YOU ARE **IN THE HEART OF GOD.**

- WHAT WILL YOU FIND?

YOU WILL FIND A NEW HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE FROM WHICH TO VIEW LIFE BELOW & AROUND YOU

Your circumstances will not look so big and scary from above ... while you're looking down on them.

- WHAT WILL YOU FIND?

YOU WILL FIND HEAVENLY WISDOM AS TO WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING ... AND GOD'S INSTRUCTION AS TO HOW YOU CAN BEGIN TO WALK THROUGH IT

James 3:17 NIV

***The wisdom that comes from heaven** is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

- WHAT WILL WE FIND?

YOU WILL FIND DIVINE STRENGTH WHICH WILL FLOW DOWN INTO YOUR FLESHLY CONDITION ... EMPOWERING YOU FROM WITHIN

SET YOUR MIND ON WHAT YOU FIND

**NB: SEEK COMES BEFORE SET
'SEEK ABOVE' COMES BEFORE YOU 'SET YOUR MIND ON'.
WE SET OUR MIND ON WHAT WE FIND**

**Seek and you shall find ... then you set your mind.
SEEK & FIND THEN SET YOUR MIND**

This Heavenly Mindset ... thinking from our position ... will change our mental and emotional state ...

OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE SHOULD NOW GOVERN OUR PHYSICAL LIFE

SATAN'S TACTIC TO KEEP YOU FROM THINKING HEAVEN

Matthew 16:23 English Standard Version **SLIDE**

But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are **not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.**"

NB: THIS WORD (phroneis) – 'not setting your mind**' IS THE SAME WORD AS PAUL USES IN Colossians –**

Colossians 3:2 NKJ

'Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.'

Satan's great purpose for The Saints of God is to keep us **Earthly focused and our minds filled with Earthly things** –

Concerns ... Complications Confusions ... trying to find Conclusions that we cannot find ...

Which breeds fears and worries ...

Jesus said of Satan –

2 Corinthians 4:4 CLV

The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who **WILL NOT** believe ...

WHERE DO I BEGIN?

TURN ASIDE ... GET ALONE

Exodus 3:3 NKJV **SLIDE**

*Then Moses said, "I will now **turn aside** and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."*

THE BURNING BUSH WAS OFF THE BEATEN TRACK.

It did not grow on the track on which Moses walked.

MOSES HAD TO 'TURN ASIDE' FROM HIS DAILY COURSE.

He had to depart from his personal program.

He had to suspend his set direction.

He had to "turn aside" ... in order to encounter God Himself.

Luke 5:16 NIV **SLIDE**

*... Jesus often **withdrew to lonely places** and prayed.*

SLIDE *In my lifetime, since becoming a Born Again Believer, I have literally walked 100s of miles seeking God ... looking at His Creation ... letting go of all other thoughts ... looking up at the heavens in wonder ... praising His magnificence ... giving thanks for His grace ...*

*Every time I went, **my heart would swell with peace**. I knew God was pleased and waiting for me.*

I would look away from this world ...

I would look away from my earthbound situations ...

The world would become small as I perceived the greatness of the heavens and became a part of God's presence.

CONCLUSION

We are not only Declared Justified

We are not only Risen into Jesus' Newness of Life

But we are Raised up with Him to Heavenly places ...

Seated with Him Far Above all things ...

Let's set our minds on Things Above ...

And discover the wonders of Eternity ...