

“Seek the things above, where Christ is.” Colossians chapter 3 verse 1

I suppose it's quite natural that we should give most of our attention to the things going on around us and in our lives in the material world. That is where we live, after all. And that is why, when we think of Jesus, most of us think of him during his physical incarnation on earth, all those years ago.

But Paul encourages the Colossian Christians to set their minds on things above, not on earthly things. Why? Because that is where Jesus is now, seated at the right hand of God. In a very real spiritual sense, our lives are also there with him. Spiritually, we are anchored there. When we put our trust in Jesus, we were included in his death, resurrection and ascension to heaven.

It was from heaven that Jesus poured out his Spirit on his disciples at Pentecost. He told them that he had to die and return to heaven so that he could send the Spirit. Without the Spirit living within us, bringing into our lives the resources of heaven, we could not live effective and fruitful lives for God on this earth.

We might think that to follow Paul's advice, to set our minds on things above, rather than on earthly things, would render us, as the old saying goes, “too heavenly minded to be of any earthly use”, but exactly the opposite is true. The more heavenly minded we become, the more earthly use we are, because we are drawing on what we currently have in heaven because of Jesus to resource our lives in this world.

Paul says to the Ephesian Christians that Jesus “ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things.” From there he distributes spiritual gifts to his disciples on earth, so that they can minister his life, love and truth to each other and draw others to faith.

If we want our lives of faith in this world to be fruitful, then we need to raise our attention to the living reality of where Jesus is now, and where our lives are “hidden” with him. The things we need to carry out our mission on earth and live effective lives do not just come from events recorded in Israel two millennia ago, important though those are. They are things which are alive and real now, and can be activated in our lives today.

Prayer.

Father, thank you that the Jesus I have trusted for my salvation is not a figure locked in the pages of history, but someone who is alive now. Not only that, he is in the place of the greatest glory and power, at your right hand, and he is able and willing to resource my life from there and make it thrive and be fruitful for you. Please show me how to raise my vision so that I can get a sense of who and where Jesus is right now. Help me to live my life out of a connection with his present reality. In Jesus' name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*