



## Going Deeper - Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide (Rooted In The Word : Colossians) (October 24, 2021)

*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Col 3:2*

What are the things above? Here the word “above” refers to the “heavens”, or in our modern language, the things of the air. That is, the things “above” are things we cannot detect with our physical senses, they are things that extend past this world’s physical being. Elsewhere Paul refers to the things of this world as shadows of the things above. So when we set our minds on things above instead of things on earth we are contemplating one of the fundamental questions of our existence; what is real?

This is where Paul starts his letter to the church in Colossae. What is real? In short, Jesus is real. Slightly longer, Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation, with all things being created through Him and for Him (1:15-17). We would (or will) need many lifetimes to explore the many facets of this reality, but Paul’s summary is that Jesus is the pivot point of what is real, and the rest of what we experience is a kaleidoscope from that centrality

So then, what does this mean about our individual reality? It means that what Jesus says about us goes. Jesus is the preeminent authority of reality, and therefore we, being part of reality, are that which he says we are. And what does he say we are? Well here again there are many facets (since we are images of God, the reality of which seems to have infinite variety), but perhaps the center of what we are is free to do and to be what we are able to know as right. And not only are we free from the prison of sin and death because Jesus has made it so, but we are free even from the things we have done and thought in sin and death. Verses thirteen and fourteen put this beautifully: “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

And finally, what does this mean for the reality of how we live? It means we are now free to live with our minds on things above, and we are equipped to do away with those things which are death and decay on the earth. For example, lust, greed and the desire to control (3:2-5). This is what it means to live in the reality of Jesus, as expressed by Paul.

### **So, Consider:**

1. The implications of Jesus truly being the pivot point of reality.
2. The difference, in your own words of being free from prison and being free from that which led to imprisonment.

### **Take Action:**

This week, take five full minutes each morning and set your mind on things above.

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

*Ben Scott*