

# Seek & Set

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Colossians 3:1-4

## The approach... the USS Midway

Though our text today is rather small, it is in no way insignificant for each and every word was given to us through holy men of God who wrote as they were filled, inspired, led by the Holy Spirit.

It is worth noting that chapter 3 comes after chapter 2, not dealing with sins of wicked proportions but the deceptive distractions of self-satisfying morality. Legalism, the pursuit of rules rather than the pursuit of Christ.

Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

## Colossians 3:1-4

### Re-routing direction when the directions have gone wrong.

2007 Chicago Illinois... on board navigation was a bit newer on the scene but our rental car came with one. Only problem is, this fancy little device couldn't seem to figure out where we were or where we needed to be. Oh it was trying... but it was of no use... at some point we decided to give up, get our bearings and begin to navigate our way to the hotel without all the glitz and glam of new technology.

Sometimes life has a way of presenting things that seem new and fancy but when it doesn't work out we springboard across the map of life but it never seems to work out quite right...

It seems that there are certain portions of our life that no matter how hard someone tries to make sense of where they are and where they are going, it will be of no use. You can search Google for answers, have endless conversations with friends, or retreat to a place of withdrawn solitude and yet, none of it seems to work. You are as lost as you ever were, they didn't work, they will never work. These are the times in life, to set aside the things of the world and look to the Lord without all the glitz and glam, the distractions and noise of whatever may have an appearance of wisdom or righteousness but in fact has no substance to hold on to.

*I want you to see Jesus, don't get lost going after empty things but stay fixed on Jesus.*

## Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Our hearts are subject to the things we focus on... not the other way around.

Your heart WILL follow.

### Wild dog on a leash...

- Home Work no one likes to dig trenches in the burning hot sun... but the end goal makes the task at hand doable.
- Money (Chores vs. Work) If your goal is to make and save money, working doesn't seem all that tormenting
- Self Focused & Sin If your end goal is to make yourself happy, sin won't seem like that big of a deal.

Sin, money, success - ***For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also***

### The end goal makes the present task much easier to accomplish

For most people, in JH you were forced to run the mile... and some, years later would find themselves joining track & field or cross-country. At first not necessarily enjoying running more but in pursuit of the victory that running will bring them of crossing the finish line

ahead of others. And along the way... they find joy in the journey, to the point of running early Saturday morning rather than sleeping in or playing video games. **The end goal makes the present task much easier to accomplish, the burden much easier to bear.**  
**1 Cor. 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.**

- It is not so much about the running, as much as it is about the finish line.

If you ever meet someone who seems to exude and genuine love for Jesus, don't think they started off that way. The day someone gives their life to the Lord - it is not a day of being excited about Christianity but about surrendering your heart and making Jesus what you treasure most and along the way, as you discover more and more about the Lord, there your heart will be also.

**SEE... how do you see Jesus?**

**Not, how well would you do on a test but how do you see Jesus?**

So, if it is true, and it is, where your treasure is there your heart will be also... shouldn't the most important things be what we pursue the most?

***Like it or not, pursue what is right (3x)***

Good steward of money, how you handle relationships,

**Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.**

**Hot coffee and cold Frappuccino**

**Angels vs. Dodgers** you have to pick... TODAY!

**Every house has someone who seems to cook more...**

**At some point even the chef will have to eat whatever it is they are cooking.**

- Don't add anything to your life you don't want to partake of later on.

You can try and cheat the system, and it will work, for a little while.

**Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

**3 little pigs - hay, sticks and bricks** - liken him to a wise man.

**All Knowing:** What will you hide from a God who is all knowing?

**All Places:** Where will hide from a God who is in all paces?

**All Powerful:** What will you do against a God who has all power and will judge the living and the dead?

**Psalms 139:2 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. (REV. 20)**

And so, He calls us out of darkness and into the light and says to each of us, one by one, ***be holy as I am holy.***

vs. 1 ... seek those things which are above, *where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God*

**Position & recognition:** power, honor & authority

- **Worthy** of all honor and glory and praise

- **Holy**, qualified to be your substitution

- **Loving**, willing to be your substitution

*Seated at the right hand...*

**The finished work of Salvation and the power of the resurrection**

**Have you ever watched a ballerina spin so fast that you feel dizzy?**

Spotting: It's having a very narrow, fixed, point of reference.

In all of life's "To Dos," in all of the world's distractions in all of our sin nature's desire, what do we do... when the **on board navigation** doesn't seem to be working, what is to be our fixed point of reference?

It should be of no surprise to anyone... our point of reference is Jesus.

**BUT how do we do that?**

**SEEK**

Colossians 3:1-3

Seek: in order to find, to discover by thinking, meditating, reasoning and making enquiry, to strive for, to crave.

When you can't find your phone... you turn down every other noise in the house.

Ella at Home Depot

When you are looking for something specific, nothing else seems to matter.

The Lord is not impressed by eloquent prayers or put-together lives, He is moved by sincere, genuine belief in, and continued dependency on the Son of God.

- That Jesus would be our **fixed point of reference**.

Mining for Gold

When the on board navigation isn't working... your heart and mind seem to have betrayed you and you're not sure what to do... SEEK those things that are above. It's ok to be shaken to the core, it's ok to hit seasons of difficulty and confusion, it's ok to have no idea what to do... it's just not ok to stay that way.

**Q:** What has the Lord revealed about these things?

Scent detecting dogs

*Don't take a verse and claim it... read through the Word of God until it claims you.*

(Dog with a rope never letting go) Seek & Set

**SET**

Set your mind (this is not three word but one in the Greek)

to judge yourself and be of the same opinion as another, to have the same understanding, to be of the same mind. ***To take your mind and attach it to someone else's opinion.***

As you and I grow older, we realize people are just people. But be careful, don't think that God is just God.

Wooden Box with Quarter

**Hidden in Christ:** Some things take days, weeks, months and even years...

## Things that are above: Above what? Above us...

- Sin
- Selfishness
- Good Works and morality (Col. 2:23)  
Following God vs. following rules.
- Then there is God Himself

## Things that are above

These are things that are **not** found within ourselves but are only found in who Jesus is  
Hotter/Colder Game *The leading and refining work of the Holy Spirit*

Beware the systematic religiosity of legalism. (Colossians 2:23)

It's just an illusion of godliness.

***A godly person is not a flawless person but a fruitful one.***

Love Joy Peace Longsuffering  
Kindness Goodness Faithfulness Gentleness  
Self-control

## No Compromise

vs. 2 set your mind on things above, **NOT** on things on the earth.

**Does not say in addition to or as well as**

**1 Corinthians 3:18** Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...

**Faith in God is not to be mixed with the cares of this world...**

*You cannot have two masters...you will love one and hate the other.*

Hidden

Colossians 3:3-4

In war, if a soldier is taken captive they are to give name and rank. Under no circumstances are they to give any other information.

- My name is David Ax
- Adopted son of God
- Coheir with Christ
- Sealed & Filled by the Spirit of the Living God

To find your life you must lose it

For those who want to play by their rules, follow their desires, rely on their strengths... what will you do when the heavens flee and the earth melts away, you will stand before Jesus, the one who is seated at the right hand of God, the one the Angels won't even look up but declare as holy, holy, holy!

Gospel

That Jesus, through His death and resurrection set us free from sin, sets us free from death and has given us eternal life.

We are hidden in Christ and will appear with Him in glory...

In GLORY: splendor, majesty, radiance... perfection.

We not only will see Him just as He is but will appear with Him, completely set free from all sin and temptation, the wounds that we carry from living in this world healed and made whole.

I wonder how many, have carried burdens too heavy to bear... I wonder how each of us handled such moments. Perhaps we internalized so much of the difficulty and even withdrew from what once was normal life, maybe we floated out small phrases hoping someone would ask more, possibly, some, continued on as if nothing was wrong and it would all figure itself out or even pursued more friends, more fun hoping it would fix whatever difficulty had attached itself to our hearts.

Until we are with Him...

Seek those things that are of God and once you find them, Set your mind (bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

The Story of R.U. Darby ...

June 30, 2008 — jric

Back in the gold rush days of the wild wild west there was a man (R.U. Darby's uncle) who heard about the riches that were being 'found' and struck in mining for gold out on the western frontier. He left Maryland to journey to Colorado and stake a claim to the newfound gold! After some preliminary digging, he discovered that he had found a deposit of gold so vast that it boggled everyone's mind! It was thought they had found the biggest goldmine in history. So he travelled back to Maryland to 'raise' the funds necessary to buy and install all the equipment they would need to mine the gold.

On the return trip to Colorado, both the uncle and Darby staked their claim. They went to work on the mine. They pulled the first car out filled with ore out and sent it to the smelters to determine the gold content. The results came back and they were able to prove that indeed this had been one of the richest finds of gold in history! Of course everyone was mesmerized with dollar signs/wealth in their eyes. They 'knew' that in just a short period of time of mining they would all have amassed more wealth than they had ever dreamt about!

So they fired up the drills and went after the gold with a vengeance; and that's when they hit their wall! Something happened. The gold 'vein' had mysteriously disappeared! It was nowhere to be found – they kept digging, and digging, and digging further down, but it was to no avail ... it just wasn't there! They desperately tried and tried and tried some more! Their hopes, dreams, all their wishes were dashed! They had come crushing down – boom!

Down and out, depressed, and dragging their feet, with their shoulders stooped – they finally decided to **quit**. They had all those thoughts that no doubt – you've all had before.

### **Does Any of This Sound Familiar?**

So they decided to walk away from it, and sell it for whatever they could sell their equipment for. They found a man who bought junk for pennies. The 'junk' man bought all their machinery and equipment for a

few hundred dollars. The Darby's took the next train back home to Maryland. Mr. Junk Man decided to bring in a mine engineer (a specialist) and look at the mine and do some analysis. Well it didn't take long for this *specialist* to discover what the Darby's had done wrong, where they had made their mistake. It turns out as he explained to the junk man; the Darby's had overlooked or were unaware of "fault lines." He further explained that according to his *calculations*, the huge gold vein would be found again ***just three feet away from where the Darby's had stopped drilling!*** Needless to say, they started drilling in the place the specialist had indicated and ...

### **The Gold Vein was Found Exactly Three Feet Away!**

Exactly where the fault line shift indicated.

The result: The junk man took in MILLIONS of dollars in gold ore out of the mine simply because he had the presence of mind to seek a specialist / expert ***before*** he gave up.