***Discipleship #2 – Colossians 3:1-4***

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**Introduction**

1. One of the most important aspect of discipleship is often neglected – the future. Christianity has a future and without this hope we will have no power for the present (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).
2. **We Must Talk More About Heaven**
   1. We Believe But Do We Prepare?
3. **Worldliness/Materialism Is Our Problem**
   1. Will You Take Up Your Cross & Follow Jesus? – Luke 9:23-26
      1. In the Roman world, the cross was a symbol of shame, guilt, suffering, and rejection. There could be no more despicable way to die.
      2. To take up our cross and follow Jesus meant to identify with Jesus in surrender, suffering, and sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2).
      3. Discipleship is a daily discipline: we follow Jesus a step at a time, a day at a time. Anyone who is ashamed of Christ will never take up a cross and follow Him (Mark 8:38; 2 Timothy 2:11-13; 1 John 2:28).
4. **So Earthly Minded We Can Be No Heavenly Good**
   1. This Is 100% False!
      1. Without heaven, earth does not make any sense. Heavenly-mindedness, “What, on earth, are you doing, for heaven’s sake?” (Matthew 6:33, 34; Philippians 1:21, 22; Galatians 2:20, 21; 1 Peter 1:3).
      2. Heaven is won or lost only on earth. Eternal life is now (John 10:10; 14:6; 1 John 5:11-13)! If there is no life now, there will be no life then.
5. **We Have Resurrection Hope – Colossians 3:1-4**
   1. We Died With Christ – v3a
      1. The fullest explanation of this wonderful truth is found in Romans 6–8. Christ not only died *for* us (substitution), but we died *with* Him (identification). Disciples have victory over sin and our old nature!
   2. We Live In Christ – v4a
      1. We are dead and alive at the same time—dead to sin and alive in Christ.
   3. We Are Raised With Christ – v1a
      1. When Jesus gave us His life, He lifted us out of the grave and set us on the throne in heaven!
   4. We Are Hidden In Christ – v3b
   5. We Are Glorified In Christ – v4b
      1. According to the Apostle Paul, *we have already been glorified!* (Rom. 8:30) This glory simply has not yet been revealed.
      2. Now, in view of our wonderful identification with Christ, we have a great responsibility: “Seek those things which are above” (Col. 3:1).
6. **Our Goal Is Heaven**
   1. Heaven makes disciples. Christianity is an adventure of faith. We are pilgrims, nomads, sojourners. Are you heading to heaven? Be a disciple!