

OHIO BLENDING CONFERENCE

April 14-16, 2017

GENERAL SUBJECT: PRACTICING THE CHURCH LIFE UNDER THE HEAVENLY MINISTRY OF CHRIST

Message One

Seeking the Things Which Are Above

Scripture Reading: Col. 3:1-2; Eph. 2:5-6; Heb. 4:12; 1 Cor. 2:14-15

- I. **“If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”—Col. 3:1:**
 - A. In ascension Christ is the One who is sitting at the right hand of God—Heb. 1:3; 12:2; Rom. 8:34.
 - B. God not only saved us from the position of death, but He also seated us with Christ in the highest place in the universe—Eph. 2:5-6:
 1. It was in Christ that God seated us all together, once for all, in the heavenlies.
 2. This was accomplished when Christ ascended to the heavens, and it has been applied to us by the Spirit of Christ ever since we believed in Him.
 - C. The things which are above are the things which are in the heavens, in contrast to the things which are on the earth—Col. 3:1-2.
 - D. In order to seek the things which are above, we must be where these things are; because we have one position with Christ in His ascension (Eph. 2:6), we can seek the things which are above.
 - E. According to the New Testament, the things which are above include Christ’s ascension, His enthronement, and His being made the Head, the Lord, and the Christ:
 1. Acts 2:36 says that God has made Jesus in His ascension both Lord and Christ; He was made the Lord of all to possess all; and He was made Christ, God’s anointed One (Heb. 1:9), to carry out God’s commission.
 2. In ascension Christ has been made the Head over all things to the church—Eph. 1:22:
 - a. *To the church* implies a kind of transmission.
 - b. Whatever Christ, the Head, has attained and obtained is transmitted to the church, His Body.
 - c. In this transmission the church shares with Christ in all His attainments: the resurrection from the dead, His being seated in His transcendence, the subjection of all things under His feet, and the headship over all things—vv. 19-23.
 3. To seek the things which are above is to respond to and reflect Christ’s activities in His heavenly ministry—Heb. 2:17; 4:14; 7:26; 8:1-2; Rev. 5:6; Col. 3:1-2.

II. In order to seek the things which are above and to set our mind on them, we need to turn to our spirit and experience the dividing of the soul from the spirit—Heb. 4:12:

- A. Only when we are in our spirit are we in heaven and mind the things which are above; when we are outside the spirit we are earthly and mind the things which are on the earth—Col. 3:2:
 - 1. The way to seek the things which are above is to turn to our spirit and call on the name of the Lord—Rom. 8:16; 10:12.
 - 2. There is a transmission taking place from Christ in heaven to us on earth by means of the all-inclusive Spirit in our spirit—Eph. 1:19, 22-23; 2:22:
 - a. Our spirit is the receiving end of the divine transmission, whereas the throne of God in heaven is the transmitting end—Rev. 5:6.
 - b. By turning to our spirit we are lifted into heaven—4:1-2.
 - c. Because of the transmission from the throne of God in heaven into our spirit, when we experience and enjoy Christ here on earth, we are simultaneously in heaven.
 - d. In spirit we are one in position with Christ, seeking the things which are above—Col. 3:1.
- B. We need to experience the dividing of the soul from the spirit—Heb. 4:12:
 - 1. The soul and spirit can be divided because they are two entities and are of two kinds of substances; regardless of how hidden our spirit is within our soul, still they are two distinct organs; thus, we need to experience the dividing of our soul from our spirit—Heb. 4:12.
 - 2. The spirit is so hidden in the soul that it needs to be divided from the soul by the living and operative word of God, which is “sharper than any two-edged sword”—v. 12.
- C. By experiencing the dividing of our soul from our spirit and by exercising our spirit, we can seek the things which are above and set our mind on them; then the riches of Christ’s heavenly ministry will be transmitted into us, and we will be transformed and constituted with Christ—Col. 3:1-2; Heb. 7:25-26; 8:1-2; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10-11.