

Sermon: The Heavenly-Minded Christian (Col. 3.1-4)

§1. Introduction

Theme: The cause, nature, and effects of heavenly-mindedness. The cause is union with Christ; the nature is to have a mind set on things above; the effects are mortification of sin and the fruit of the Spirit.

Doctrine: Those who are united to Christ have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory¹, have a heavenly mind, and live a heavenly life here on earth as they look forward to glory.²

Applications:

- (1) We must seek Christ and his Kingdom**
- (2) We must meditate on Christ—his Person and Work, and his Word such that our minds are constantly set on him, even as we go about our daily business.**
- (3) We must mortify our sin.**
- (4) We must live a heavenly life on earth as we look forward to glory.**

¹ Westminster Confession of Faith 26.1:

All saints that are united to Jesus Christ their head, by his Spirit and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory:[a] and being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces,[b] and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.[c]

a: John 1:16, Romans 6:5–6, Ephesians 2:5–6, Ephesians 3:16–19, Philippians 3:10, 2 Timothy 2:12, 1 John 1:3

b: 1 Corinthians 3:21–23, 1 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:15–16, Colossians 2:19

c: Romans 1:11–12, Romans 1:14, Galatians 6:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, 1 John 3:16–18

² Col. 3.1-4; 1 Jn. 3.3; Ps. 17.14; 1 Jn. 2.15-17

§2. Exposition

1. Summary of Context:

2. Exposition of Text:

§3. Uses

1. Three Marks of Heavenly-Mindedness

i.

ii.

iii.

2. A Method of Meditation

A. How to Meditate

- Set apart 10-15 minutes every day to meditate.
- Step 1. Choose a passage of Scripture or a Doctrine.
- Step 2. Think deeply about how it is a reality. Don't let it remain as mere words or an abstract concept. Bring the truths that may be resting in the back of your mind to the forefront.
- Step 3. Think about what God is teaching you in the scripture and what duty God requires of you as a consequence.³
- Step 4. Apply the Scripture or Doctrine to yourself on a personal level. Compare your life to the standard of the Scripture; examine yourself; take comfort, or be warned; take hold of the promises, and take heed of the threatening.

B. Example: Meditating on the Lord's Supper

³ Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 3: "What do the Scriptures principally teach?"

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God,[a] and what duty God requires of man[b].

a: Genesis 1:1, John 5:39; 20:31, Romans 10:17, 2 Timothy 3:15

b: Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:105, Micah 6:8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17