***Colossians 3:1-3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.***

We’ve been blessed this morning to witness the Baptism of Conner. God has been good. As Conner knows, baptism symbolizes our death to the things of this world and our raising to everlasting life in the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is our public profession of Faith in Jesus.

In our scripture, Paul is writing to the church at Colossae around 60 AD, encouraging them in their newfound faith. He’s heard of many baptisms and believers coming to Christ. He’s warning them to put off the meaningless things of this world and seek the things above. Likewise, this morning, I encourage us all to put aside the meaningless things that will stay behind when we go on to eternity. Invest resources, talent, time, and love wisely.

Verse 1 says *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.* Notice this is an if, not a since.If you died to self and have been raised to newness of life with Christ. We must choose to die to self. Every day, we take up our Cross and follow. Every day we make that choice to seek those things which are above, heavenly things. Why? Because where our Master is, Christ sitting at the right hand of God, we want to be also. We groan in this earthly tent that we call a body, desiring to be absent from the woes and pains of this world, and present with the Lord. If we were raised with Christ, every part of our being is drawn to seek that which is above.

Verse 2 *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.* Paul gives us the secret to seeking those things which are above. Conner, we set our mind on the things above and not the things of this world. We set our mind on seeking Jesus and His healing Grace. We flee from temptation and 2 Timothy 2:22 tells us what to pursue - *Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.* We pursue prayer, the study of God’s Word, and relationship with God daily. Our mind will be occupied by something at all times – we either pursue worldly things or heavenly treasures as Matthew 6:19-21 - *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Set your mind daily.

Verse 3 says *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*Baptism symbolizes our death, burial, and resurrection into newness of life with Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,****19****that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.* When we die to self and are raised to this newness of life, our sin has transferred to the Cross and Christ’s blood has hidden us, allowing us to stand in righteousness. We now have a ministry of reconciliation, seeking the things above, despising the things of this world, and bringing the Gospel to every ear that will hear.

Conner, continue to read your Bible, pray, witness to others. Live out your ministry of reconciliation, set your mind on the things above and seek them, pursue God with hunger.

This week, let’s all consider how we are dying to self daily. Is our mind set on the things above or the things of this world? Where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. Let’s resolve to take up our Cross and seek Christ daily.

Perhaps there is someone here today who has never died to self and been raised to newness of life. Today is a great day to transform your life. Jesus is calling – do you want to be made well? Come as we sing and answer Him boldly – Yes Lord, I long to be made whole!