# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



# TEXT SUMMARY

"Advent" means "arrival." Our Advent series has been built around three key aspects of Christ's coming:

- **His Advent in the past**: His coming to earth as a baby
- His Advent in the present: the sanctifying work of His Spirit
- **His Advent in the future**: His coming again to bring human history to a close and make all things right

In this week's text, <u>Colossians 3:1-4</u>, we see Paul point us forward to Christ's Second Coming. He exhorts us to reorient our attention toward the life we have in Christ, the life that will be ours at His return.

## INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- Our text opens with the connective device "If then you have been raised with Christ" (v. 1). How does the content of the previous two paragraphs (v. 16-23) inform this connection? (How is it that we've been "raised with Christ"?)
- 2. There are two exhortations in this text. What are they?
- 3. Surrounding the two exhortations are explanations supporting those exhortations. We've looked at the first one ("If you have been raised with Christ..." v. 1). The second begins with the conjunction "for" at the beginning of v. 3. What is involved in the second explanation?

#### DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. Paul's description of Christ in v. 1 "seated at the right hand of God" is loaded with significance. Based on these OT texts, what does Paul's exalted language imply about Christ (Isa 49:2; Psa 27:5-6; 31:19-20)?
- Other NT texts speak of our someday sharing in the future of Christ. What light do these texts cast on the idea of our sharing in Christ's glory: Gal 2:20-21; Phil 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2?

S	
ıt	
t	
ا	
g	
a   l	
	_

# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



# SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

What does it mean to "seek things that are above" (v. 1) and set our minds "on things that are above" (v. 2)? This language is reminiscent of Christ's exhortation to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matt 6:33).

- 1. If we adopt this mindset, does that mean we neglect our responsibilities here and now? That is obviously not what Paul had in mind, though some think so ("She's so heavenly minded that she's no earthly good.")
  - Then what does it mean to adopt this "things above" mindset?
  - How would such a mindset affect someone's priorities (financial, use of time, etc.)?
- 2. If you were to spend time with someone who had cultivated this mindset, how would his or her actions and words be unusual, out of the ordinary?
  - Have you ever known such a person?
  - What did you admire about him/her?



Because of the special format of the three identical Christmas Eve services next week, there will be no study guide next week.