

10.20.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Living Our New Identity”

Scripture Reading: [Colossians 3:1-10](#)

Reflection: Rev. Evan Heerema

My bank (and I believe some other banks do the same) has recently begun allowing me to use money that they anticipate being transferred into my account. Here is their line, “If you have a * * * checking account with direct deposit, you could get your pay up to two days early. No cost. No catch.” 2 Day Early they call it. Since the bank is certain that funds designated as automatic deposit will arrive, I am privileged to use those funds 2 days before they actually arrive. Funds are, more or less, guaranteed in my name.

If I were a spendthrift, or if I needed to cover an expense, such a program would be helpful for 2 days. How much more of a blessing are the eternal riches of God eternally preserved for me in Christ, who is in God. “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God (vs. 3).” The Kingdom New Testament, A Contemporary Translation by N. T. Wright, published by Zondervan, 2011, reads this way, “Don’t you see: you died, and your life has been hidden with the king, in God!” My life, in Christ, is already set in eternity. The things of this earth surely should be strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

But those strangely dim things have a devilish way of jumping up in front of me. I wish they would disappear from my mind’s eye, but since they don’t do that by themselves, Paul has to command me (Pastor Doug called it “An Imperative”) to actively and consciously put to death whatever belongs to my earthly nature, those things for which the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience” (N.T. Wright). The better I become at killing off those things of death and focusing on the “things above” the closer I will look like Jesus. And the closer I come to looking like Jesus, the more effective witness to, and worker for, Jesus I will be.

God wants this for his children. He does not want that we should wallow in the mud; he wants that we should walk on water, bring healing (spiritual, emotional and physical) to the hurting, give hope to the distressed and comfort to the grieving. We should be heart-set on this, bringing in the Kingdom of God. “For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed” (Romans 8: 19). J.B. Phillips translates this verse “The whole creation **is on tiptoe** (emphasis added) to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own.” The whole creation, we included, should be striving, on tiptoe, stretching our necks to see the children of God in their fullness. And since we are in Christ (Colossian 3:4), when Jesus returns, we will return with him – what else could we do since we live in him. The creation will have received God’s gracious gift of wholeness and shalom.

In the meantime, we, who live in Christ and he in us, provide previews of the reality yet to come. “Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.” Continually put on the new self, which is already yours now and forever.

Prayer:

Father God, in Jesus’ name we come to you, thanking you for what you have promised and guaranteed to us – our heavenly inheritance which we already are privileged to use. We are servants of the King, make us willing and ready to serve faithfully for all the days you graciously give us before Jesus comes again. AMEN

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Songs for today:

[Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus](#)