

Second Hand Preacher

Easter

April 16, 2017

Colossians 3:1-4

My Uncle Greg has a mental disability. He always had the best toys growing up and we were great friends when we were kids. He lived with Grandma and Grandpa for a long time until he moved to a group home. Even though he didn't have the mental capacity of others, if he understood the task he could out work anyone on the farm. One day my Dad was driving a tractor with a loader in a field and Greg and I were picking rocks and throwing them in the bucket of the tractor. It got warm and the work was hard. After we were both quite tired, Greg stopped, looked up at the sky and said, "I don't see any more rocks." My Dad and I laughed. Uncle Greg was concentrating on what was above rather than what was below.

St. Paul is urging the Colossians to concentrate on Jesus who is above rather than the world below. The risen Christ was what Paul wanted these gentile Christians to focus on. They were used to living in the world with sin and death. He was pointing them to a new reality. The Colossians have died with Christ in baptism and they will rise with him in the newness of life. The Colossians face struggle and hardships beyond measure and Paul proclaimed a faith to them that focused on them leaving the world behind.

We are in the world. Our electronic devices often rule our lives. We use them to Facebook, tweet, and text our days away. Jesus longs for us to turn to him. Hopefully our Lenten time allowed us to practice this. Now we are in the season of the resurrection. This is a true time to focus on what is above. We see Christ rise and know of his love for all people. We see Christ in one another and we hope that each of us will have an eternal home in Heaven. Concentrate on Heaven, on what is above. Reach out to all of us who are below. Pray that the risen Christ will enter our hearts with love.