

Colossians 3:1-4, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

Choices are sometimes very tough to make. Choosing to belong to Christ is a simple but difficult decision to make. Wanting to belong is the simple task, yet living for Christ on a daily basis is commonly the most difficult task set before us today. We all have our daily worries, our daily battles, and our temptations. Making the choice to be baptized into Christ is the easy part. The challenge is to live for Him daily in our relationships, our work, our schools, and in all our situations is the difficulty we find ourselves battling day in and day out.

If it were just a matter of developing an attitude of "going to worship"—that'd be really unproblematic. All I would have to do is: "Show up—Be there—And endure that uncomfortable pew while that preacher preaches." My life as a Christian would be simple. All I would have to do was show up and do the "church thing" and then leave and forget about it. Sadly, many people do that today. They suppose Christianity is just something they do on Sunday morning's and that's all God requires of them. The "many" treat their Christianity like being a member of a country club or merely just a place to further your social status. Reader the Christian commitment, according to the scriptures, is nothing like that. The bible never describes a Christian's commitment as a "membership" or a name on an attendance sheet. The scriptures proclaim loudly that Christianity is a lifestyle. It's a life style that involves sacrifice. It's a life style that involves being a servant to God and to others. It's a choice that we all must make and it focuses on who we are as people and the person we want to be. Christianity is a lifestyle with a determined destination and goals set forth to reach that destination.

It is a choice, but an inconvenient one at best. Following Christ requires that decide who we are going to be and we just don't like making that decision. We'd rather our families, our relationships, our battles, and our situations make that choice for us. The truth is we'd most likely rather become people who "acclimate" to our circumstances at the moment they take place. You see reader, there are far more people who are not members of the Lord's Body than there are members of the Lord's Body. If we live our Christian lives with a "ho-hum" outlook, it is very tough to bring others to Christ. I'm telling you that being a Christian and sharing our changed Christian lives is how we bring others to a knowledge of God. We share those things because, through God we have the courage to teach others of His love and mercy as well as His wrath in the Day to come. || Timothy 2:24-25, "And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth," What choice will we make in our lives? I pray we all may choose God through Jesus Christ to redirect our lives and be directed to fully following His will. May God bless each of you as you walk with Him daily.

Joe Rhodes