

PT 522		10
Reformed Spirituality		Heavenly-Mindedness
WSC / 2025		Callings in the Wilderness

Our Mindset

- A. Two types of a heavenly-mindset
 - 1. Looking ahead (to the life we inherit then)
 - a. with Hope - Rom 8.18,23,25; 1Thess 5.9,11; 1Jn 3.2
 - b. with Readiness - Heb 10.25; 1Pet 2.12; 2Pet 3.11
 - 2. Looking above (to the life we have now)
- B. *set your minds* - mindset, attitude, trajectory (Col 3.2; Rom 8.5; Php 2.5; Matt 16.23)
 - 1. Your thinking is shaped by the state of the whole heart
 - 2. Your heart's mind tracks in accordance with the heart's will & desires
 - Richard Sibbes - “what the heart liketh best, the mind studieth most”
 - It's not about random thoughts. It's about your thinking, & its direction

Our Heavenly Mindset (Col 3.1-4; Php 3.19)

- A. *above* = Heaven
 - 1. Heaven is both: World to come & World above
 - 2. Earthly-mindedness – Php 3.19; Col 3.5f
- B. Lay hold of the world & our life above, by faith (Heb 11.1)
 - 1. Vos – in Hebrews, “faith” is the instrument that *apprehends* unseen realities, and *lays hold* of another world (*cf* 2Cor 4.18)
 - 2. Supernaturalism is key to being Heavenly-minded
 - 3. The Consciousness of Heaven
- C. Set your mind on things above, because of where Christ is
 - 1. Our life is “hidden” with Christ
 - a. Things **hidden** = secure
 - b. Things hidden = unseen
 - 2. Everything in life *finds* its orientation, in the one seated at God's right hand

Our Heavenly Calling

- A. Prophets (Isaiah, Ezekiel, Micaiah) –what they saw, what they said
- B. Worship: A foretaste of future life & means to our life above (Heb 12.18-24)
 - 1. God draws near to us by Spirit. We *draw near* to God by faith
 - Worship *nurtures* Vitality of heavenly mindset
 - 2. Sacraments, songs, prayer
 - Prayer is both the proof & the vitality of a heavenly mindset
 - 3. The Word of God—which comes from outside this world
 - 4. Objection: “You’re so heavenly minded, you are of no earthly good”
 - C.S. Lewis: “A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.”
Mere Christianity (HarperOne, 2015), 135
- C. Seeing ourselves as God sees us
 - 1. Letting God & his truth shape how we see our lives
 - 2. Seeing ourselves as united to the Son (his death, resurrection)
 - Although we do not see him, we love him
 - 3. Hearing the dimensions of love