

## YOUR HIDDEN LIFE

BY GUY HAMMOND

I want us to explore a biblical and spiritual truth today, that hopefully will help you to understand who you are in Christ, and help you fight off the different lies that Satan often tries to sell us. This spiritual truth is found in Colossians Chapter 3. It is one of those little sentences that we often read over very quickly, but if we dig a little deeper, we will find some tremendously encouraging thoughts about God.

Colossians 3:1-4

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, **and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”*

The bible teaches us that Christians are “hidden” in Christ. Why do people hide things? If you were to come into my home, you would discover that things often get hidden. Every now and then, we will come across a gift that was meant for last Christmas, but we had hidden it so well that when Christmas came, we couldn't find it! Then in July, all of a sudden it pops up. Candy is often found in mysterious places, as everyone tries to hide their own private little stash away from everyone else.

I'm sure all of us have a bank account where we hide our money, to ensure that it is safe. Others have safety deposit boxes where the things they own are so treasured, or are so secret, that it must be kept in a vault behind lock and key.

Then of course we know that some have gone to extraordinary lengths to hide things from others. So expensive, so treasured, is the item that they bury it. I used to live in Nova Scotia, on Canada's Atlantic coast. There is an island, not too far from where I once lived called “Oak Island” where there is a treasure pit. It is almost 200 feet deep, and it is protected by an elaborate set of booby traps or underground channels to the ocean beach over 500 feet away. It has been the subject of countless excavations since 1795, costing millions upon millions of dollars, and has seen the death place of ten treasure hunters who have given up their lives just to see what's down there. What *is* down there? What could be so precious as to be buried so elaborately?

The most popular theory is that of the 18<sup>th</sup> century pirate Captain Kidd, who frequently visited the region of Oak Island to rest and repair his ships. He seemed to have a habit of burying the treasures he plundered far and wide. Then there is the even stranger theory, that the crown jewels of France are buried there. They went missing in 1791, and are said to have been taken to Nova Scotia by the French. When the British attacked, the French buried it on Oak Island to keep it safe.

Whatever is down there, it is so spectacularly valuable, that someone went to extraordinary lengths to hide it, and ensure that no one can get to it, steal it or damage it.

And this is what Christ has done with us. We know that when we become Christians three things occur: 1) your sins are forgiven, 2) the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you, and 3) you are added to God's church.

Deuteronomy 14:2

*“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his **treasured possession.**”*

So precious is the Christian, that God has hidden us, like the treasure on Oak Island. God went to extraordinary lengths to bury us so far away, that no one in the spiritual realm could get to us. Likewise, with Jesus, you and I are protected from the devil, sheltered from the storms of life, and completely covered with the mercy of God by the blood of Jesus.

In the spiritual realm we are tucked away in a special place, because God’s children are so valuable to him that he wants to ensure that nothing happens to us until the appointed day, so he hides us, with Christ. The Christian life is the hidden life.

In Psalm 83 David boasts that the Israelites were the “hidden ones of God” and that because of this special relationship as God’s chosen people, they were safe and secure from all alarms. We Christians are today the “spiritual Israel”; we are His chosen ones in the protective custody of God, no less than were those Hebrews of yesterday.

We are in God’s “witness protection plan”, much like what police forces do when they have a special witness that must be protected. That person is given a new name, new identity, a new job, a new home, and hopefully is so hidden away and concealed, that those who want to find him couldn’t, no matter how hard they tried.

In fact, as God’s chosen people today, we are *even more hidden* than the Israelites were as God’s chosen people of yesterday, because while they were hidden in God, we are hidden *with Christ* in God. We in effect get the “double whammy” of protection. Isn’t it incredible and amazing to know that you are a person who is tenderly wrapped and safely concealed in the arms of Jesus? And no harm can come to the one who is safely concealed in the arms of Jesus. Talk about eternal security! If you’re anything like me, you have those moments in your down times, (most often after you have sinned or when things aren’t going particularly well), when we wonder where God has gone and we question our salvation.

We (and I) ask questions like: *“How secure is my forgiveness? How locked away is my salvation? Maybe heaven is for everyone else, but I, no doubt, am going to blow it here so that I won’t make it.”* Well let me put it to you this way: according to the scriptures we have read, if you ever fall from the grace of God, it will not be for the reason that God’s hold on you was insecure; rather, it will be that *your hold on God* became insecure. It will be *because you left him*, not because he left you.

We are blanketed in grace. We are hidden in mercy. We are totally and completely covered in atonement, because God considers you to be so precious, so expensive, and such a treasure, that you have been hidden, with Christ, in God; the safest and most hidden spot in the universe, both physically and spiritually.

So take heart. Do not be down. Do not let yourself think that your battles with your areas of weakness are of such that Satan can get at you and tear you away from God. It’s not true. You’re too special, too treasured, too expensive, and too hidden by the Lord, even more so than the mysterious treasure of Oak Island! Stay faithful to him and never quit living for Jesus. One day we will all receive our reward.

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Thoughts presented in this devotional are taken from the book *MESSED UP: Proof That You’re More to God Than Your Mistakes* by Guy Hammond and published by Illumination Publishers. The book is a companion to the documentary movie *FINDING GUY* by One Compass Media.

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