

REPLACING THE 'IF' FACTOR WITH 'SINCE'

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Colossians 3:1 presents us with a view that could be read as conditional as to one's being raised with Christ. Some translations render the first word of the verse as "if" and others as "since" and others "In view of the fact".

Not to get too technical the Greek reads, "Ei oun sunegerqete to Christo, ta ano zeteite, ou o Christos estin en dexia tou Theou kathemenos." Got that? The Amplified Bible uses, 'If then you have been raised with Christ.....' The Phillips translation uses, 'If you are then "risen" with Christ...'

The NIV states, 'Since then you have been raised with Christ...'. The NET uses, 'Since you have been raised to new life with Christ...'. And the Wuest translation uses, 'In view of the fact. Therefore, that you were raised with Christ...'

The question arises in this as to whether or not "uncertainty" is indicated in the first part of this verse when 'if' is used, and whether or not "certainty" is indicated when 'since' is used in the translation. One would apply to all humans being raised with Christ in a Trinitarian Theology, and the other making room for some not to be raised with Christ at all by their choice NOT TO BE RAISED WITH HIM. We really need to know how to understand this properly and theologically.

In Col.2:20, Paul makes the point that we died with Christ. Since is used in the NIV and other translations due to the certainty of the fact. Then in Chapter 3:1, he emphasizes the fact that we have been RAISED with Christ as well.

We need to note here a little bit of Greek language usage as regarding the word "Ei", or 'If'. NOTE: If does NOT convey uncertainty but is what is referred to as a first class conditional clause which assumes that the statement which follows is TRUE (again see Col.2:20). One can often substitute SINCE or IN VIEW OF THE FACT for IF.

So with this in mind, it is a better rendering in our modern understanding of scripture to translate Col.3:1 as, 'Since then you have been raised with Christ...'. This is consistent with the fact that we were all ADOPTED by the Father in Jesus Christ before anything was ever created in the universe!!! (Eph.1:3-6) We have been INCLUDED in the life of Jesus Christ and the Father by the Holy Spirit as Jesus says in John 14:20 and again in John 17:20-26. The Father DECLARED this UNION from the "start". Originally. Before the foundation of the world. It is His plan and He can do and did do exactly as He desired. Thank you very much!

It is never a matter of ..."IF". It is always a matter of "SINCE" under the parameters of this discussion. It is FACT. REALITY.

Then when we read other verses such as Romans 8:28-39, we can read them without the 'if' factor. Using the 'since' factor of understanding in verse 31, we read , "SINCE God is FOR us who can be against us? There isn't any IF to it!!! God is always FOR us. ALWAYS!!! And it has always been this waySINCE the very beginning of God's wonderful plan for humankind.

The really good news, I mean, GOOD NEWS is that YOU were on The Father's mind when He formulated this 'Grand Design' before the foundation of the world. That makes you pretty wonderfully SPECIAL to our Father in Heaven who loves you JUST AS MUCH AS HE LOVED JESUS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Our problem is believing this truth of ALL Truths. All we can do is declare this to you. It is up to you to believe it.

You have always BELONGED TO THE FATHER. BELIEVE IT. Then BEHAVE like it, consistent with WHO you REALLY ARE in JESUS.