Jesus' Present Ministry: Implications for Our Spiritual Transformation

Most of us understand that when it comes to our life in Christ, we have not arrived. We know that there is a need to continue to experience spiritual transformation. We struggle with things like anger, or lying, or greed, or impurity. And we know that we are to be more loving, and kind, and patient, and pure than we are right now. But how do we get there? Do we just try harder? Today, as we look at Colossians 3:1-4, we will see an approach that works – having a mindset that is focused on Christ who sits at the right hand of God. This is one of the implications of Jesus' present ministry at God's right hand.

Opening Question: What is an area of your life in which you are most aware of a need for transformation?

Read Colossians 3:1-4	
1.	What are the commands in this passage?
2.	What are the "the things above" (v. 1, 2)? What are "the things that are on earth" (v. 2)?
3.	What do you think it means to "keep seeking" and to "set your mind" on the things above? How do we do this?

4. What does Paul say is true of the believer in Christ (vv. 3-4)? And how does understanding these truths help one experience spiritual transformation?

Brian said:

At the start of our time, I asked you to reflect on the things that we are to put to death in our lives as well as things that we need to put on. I'm sure all of us sensed some areas of needed growth in our lives. But let's suppose . . . you sensed the Spirit saying to you that anger (v. 8) is something that needs to be put to death in your life. It needs to go. It needs to be replaced with things like kindness, and humility, and gentleness and love. But how does that happen?

5.	If you were trying to put off something like anger in your life, what might an earthly approach (i.e. self-effort) to transformation look like?
6.	Practically, how might focusing on heavenly realities (i.e. the gospel) help us put away something like anger and replace it will love, kindness and patience, etc.?
7.	Brian suggested three spiritual disciples - being in the Word, worship, and walking with others (i.e. fellowship) – that would be especially helpful in focusing on heavenly realities and thus seeing transformation. Agree/Disagree? Why?
8.	What is your main application from this study?