

I.N.I.

Confirmation Day—Grant
Feb. 13, 2022
Colossians 3:1-4

In Christ Jesus, our ever-living and ever-ruling Savior, Dear Fellow Redeemed, and especially you, our dear young confirmand, Grant,

Handwritten notes:
Jude Ua
Bode
10/11/23, 1923
May 14, 2014
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What's in your dash? You know that dash that stands between two dates. Grant your Great-Grandpa Bernthal's dash was Sept. 20, 1924---January 13, 2002 or 77 years. Your Great-Grandpa Gurgel's dash was quite a bit longer October 10, 1920---February 6, 2014 or 93 years. ~~That dash between those two dates represents our life here on earth.~~ Everyone who has died has a dash with two dates, one before and one after. For some of us our dash may be quite long, 90, maybe 100 years, for others it may be quite short 20 or 30 years. How long will your dash be, Grant? Only God knows.

But whatever the length, what occurs during that dash, between those dates, your birth and your death, makes all the difference for your eternal future.

So again we ask: **Grant, WHAT'S IN YOUR DASH?**

Our text this morning tells you Grant what is in every Christ-believer's dash.

I: You are Dead to sin---Buried with Christ in your Baptism.

In verse 3 Paul writes **FOR YOU DIED**. Now Paul is writing to Colossian Christians who are very much alive. Why does he write **FOR YOU DIED**? Paul is referring back to earlier in this letter when he wrote: **IN HIM YOU WERE ALSO CIRCUMCISED, IN THE PUTTING OFF OF THE SINFUL NATURE, NOT WITH A CIRCUMCISION DONE BY THE HANDS OF MEN BUT WITH THE CIRCUMCISION DONE BY CHRIST, HAVING BEEN BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM.**

When the Holy Spirit brought you to faith in Jesus, Grant, you died to your sinful self and your old earthly way of living. Your guilt filled heart was buried with Christ in your Baptism. This free gift of God in Baptism put your sinful nature to death, and the Holy Spirit created a new living nature within you—the New Man, living in Christ. You were now dead to sin—to everything that says “self”, or “fear”, or “slavery” or “me, me, me!”

In Romans 6 Paul writes: **OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT AS MANY OF US AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH?** You and all of us were not merely baptized with reference to Jesus, or just united to Him in His death, but Jesus' salvation is our salvation, because we were baptized into His death. He did this by taking our sins upon Himself and paying the full price of their punishment through His suffering and death, Jesus has delivered us not only from guilt and punishment, but also from the power of sin. And since we have become Christ's own by Baptism and have been baptized into His death, we are delivered from the power of death—from its authority and rule over us.

But there is more, Grant: **WHAT'S IN YOUR DASH?**

II: You are Alive in Christ---Set your mind on Heavenly Things.

In both Romans and here in Colossians Paul follows with these words: **THEREFORE WE WERE BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH, THAT JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE and BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM, IN**

WHICH YOU ALSO WERE RAISED WITH HIM THROUGH FAITH IN THE WORKING OF GOD, WHO RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. AND YOU, BEING DEAD IN YOUR TRESPASSES AND THE UNCIRCUMCISION OF YOUR FLESH, HE HAS MADE ALIVE TOGETHER WITH HIM, HAVING FORGIVEN YOU ALL TRESPASSES.

Verses 1 and 2 of our text reads: **IF THEN YOU WERE RAISED WITH CHRIST, SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS, SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH.**

Even as God regards Jesus' death as if it were every believer's death and credits it to each of us, He also raises each of us from spiritual death to spiritual life, setting us free from the power of sin and giving us peace, joy and forgiveness. Being raised with Christ, Grant, means you have been made a personal sharer in the blessings Jesus has earned for you. Just as Christ was "reborn" through His resurrection we are spiritually reborn to new life. Just as Jesus has power over sin, death, Satan and hell you also bask in that power, as well as in the power over troubles, worries, problems, temptations and trials in your life.

That is why Paul says **SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE.** With your goal heaven, you are set free from the worldly cares and worries of this life, while still enjoying your live here on earth. You are not living for this life, but for eternal life. Your values, goals, and decisions ought to reflect this heavenly-mindedness. Your real citizenship is in heaven. Nothing on earth has lasting value or is a lasting treasure. Heaven is your home even as you live on this earth! So Paul tells you Aim High!

What is in your Dash?
III: Grant, You are Hidden with Christ---Your unseen Glory.

Paul continues: **YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD.** The unbelieving world does not see what you really have and enjoy. The Righteousness of Christ!

You look really good this morning, Grant. All dressed up, but you don't look holy and perfect, but you are, in Christ. The Lord Jesus is your righteousness!

Grant, you also don't look like a conqueror, but you are in Christ. **WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US.** Romans 8:37

Grant, you also don't look like a child of God, but you are in Christ! **FOR YOU ARE ALL SONS OF GOD THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.** Gal. 3:26

Grant, you also don't look wealthy, but you are in Christ! **AND MY GOD WILL MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS GLORIOUS RICHES IN CHRIST JESUS.** Phil. 4:19

To the world this hidden life in Christ means nothing. Unbelievers may laugh and scorn us Christians for living with our heads in the clouds looking for a redeemer to come and for rejecting the world's standards and values and way of life. They see us believers experiencing the same problems, troubles, trials, suffering and pain as others and ridicule our belief in some unseen Lord and Savior who rules all things. But that unseen glory is still yours and ours and is seen only through faith, UNTIL *but it's at the end of your dash*

IV: Grant, you are Forever with Christ, enjoying Eternal Glory.

WHEN CHRIST WHO IS OUR LIFE APPEARS, THEN YOU ALSO WILL APPEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY. When the Ascended Lord returns again as Judge of all the world, what is now hidden from the world will be made visible. You, Grant, and all of us who believe in Jesus will be glorified and appear in that full-blown glory with Jesus. Unbelievers will try to run away and flee from the Judgment, but we will be welcomed into our heavenly Father's home by our loving Savior.

Sign!
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We will have glorified bodies like Christ and will rule with Him forever. What an amazing eternity to look forward to.

So Grant, what's in your dash? As a believer in Christ---^{were he'd do} your sinful flesh was put to death and buried with Christ in your baptism. You renounced Satan and all his ways and died to sin.

You were also made alive in Christ, spiritually reborn and now live on earth with your heart and desires on heaven. ~~as you are being led by the Holy Spirit to include in your dash, your promise to remain faithful to Christ until death, conforming your life to the rule of the Divine Word, diligently using the Means of Grace (Word and Sacrament), and walking in His Word by His grace and power of God.~~ ^{bring high in the head - spirit} _{life}

Today, you are being led by the Holy Spirit to include in your dash, your promise to remain faithful to Christ until death, conforming your life to the rule of the Divine Word, diligently using the Means of Grace (Word and Sacrament), and walking in His Word by His grace and power of God. The most important promise the Lord will ever lead you to make

Your unseen glory, Grant, is hidden in Christ as you go through the day by day troubles, problems, trials, sufferings, joys and happiness of life knowing that Christ has Lived, Died, Risen again, Ascended and lives as your Prophet, Priest and King over all things.

Therefore we are convinced that **ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.**

We pray that your dash will also include years of training at ILC, perhaps a future wife and family and maybe even years of service to your Savior in the public ministry. And when a date is finally placed after your dash, the date of your death, your soul will be taken to live with the Lord in heaven. Your body will be placed in your grave and will await the last act of Christ's return when you will be glorified with Him forevermore.

That is what is in every Christian's dash, every Christian's life here on earth while living for heaven.

So, Grant, let's keep busy living for our Savior in all that we do, while we await His return, so we can faithfully answer the question: "What on earth are you doing, for heaven's sake?"

Amen.