

Title: **The Christian's Past, Present, and Future**

Text: **Colossians 3:1-4**

Date: **December 28, 2025**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.

Big Idea

Because we have been raised with Christ, we can now pursue Christ, as we wait for His (and our) glory when Christ returns!

1. Our Past: R_____ With Christ (vv.1a)

(cf. 1:21-22, 2:9-15, Ephesians 2:6)

- G_____ Work -- Not O_____
(cf. 2:9-15)

- Our U_____ with Christ (Our I_____)
(cf. 1:14, 16, 19, 2:3, 6-15, 20)

2. Our Present: P_____ Christ (vv.1b-3)

(cf. Romans 8:5, Mark 8:33, John 8:23)

- Our W_____ -- God's C_____ For Us
(cf. 3:5, 12-17)

- N_____ Gnosticism But A K_____ Mindset
(cf. 1:15-16, 3:5-9, 12-14; Phil 4:8-9, Rom 12:2, Matt 6:19-21)

3. Our Future: G_____ with Christ (vv.3-4)

- "Hidden": S_____ & V_____
(cf. 1:26-29; Rom 8:18-21, 1 John 3:2)
- Jesus' Return: Coming Judgment & O_____ Glory
(cf. Rom 8:17-18, 30; Phil 3:21, 2 Cor 5:10)

Reflection Questions

- As 2025 comes to an end, how would you describe how this past year has been for you? What are some of the highs & lows, good & bad, praiseworthy and heartbreaking for you this past year?
- How have you grown (or perhaps struggled) in the areas of faith, community, and mission this past year? What are some areas where you need to acknowledge, confess and repent of sin before the Lord and others?
- As you look ahead to 2026, what are some changes or adjustments you need to make? What are some possible areas of growth in the areas of faith, community and mission?
- How does this morning's passage help guide you in your plans, priorities and focus for 2026? What are some specific areas where you need to be seeking and setting your mind (and heart) on, "the things above"?
- Parent Corner: What are some ways you can help your child(ren) keep eternity in mind while helping them to live in the present? What are ways you can be a better example to them in this way yourself?

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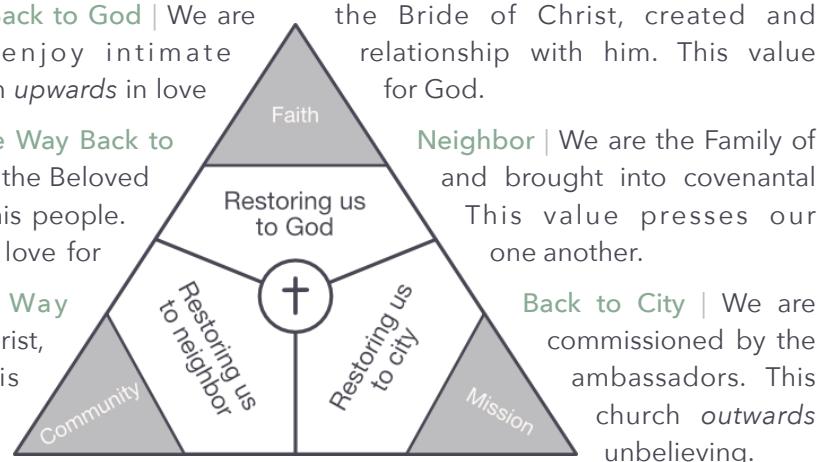
Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with God. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for God.

MISSION: The Way of the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his ambassadors. This value presses our church *outwards* in love for the world.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Week of Prayer - January 4-11

The church is always called to be praying and seeking God together, but sometimes it is good to set aside special time to do so. That's what we have made a habit of doing during the first week of every new year. This year the first Sunday in January is the 4th, so our Week of Prayer will span from January 4th to the 11th. Here are just a few things to look forward to:

- On the front end of this week (1/4), we will have a special sermon delivered in an effort to help our community see the importance of prayer in the life of the church. On the back end of this week (1/11), we will actually devote the entire service to an extended time of musical worship and prayer!
- On the first Sunday of this week (1/4), we encourage you to prioritize joining us for our All Church Prayer meeting in the evening later that day.
- We will provide a Prayer Guide to give you ideas of what to pray for as well as space to record your prayers and thoughts as God leads. The start of a new year naturally gets us reflecting on things—where we've been and where we hope to go. This guide has been designed to help you in this and offer a framework for your evaluation and planning.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Sunday Prayer Walk - Today!

End-of-Year Giving - Last Call!

Scan the QR code below for more info and clickable content!



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SUNDAY SIDEBAR

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