

**AND NOW THE LIFE YOU HAVE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD**

**COL. 3,3**

1. Some time ago a woman from Algeria, brought up as a Mohammedan, was interviewed on French television. She said, when she was asked, that she does not believe in God, nor in heaven or an after-life. But she said, our relations, the relations we have as human beings, remain. I was very much touched by her words, because for me they are so near to the Gospel.
2. Many Christians are always worried or even very worried about what will happen with them when they die. Many nowadays solve the problem by denying that there is anything after dying. If you die, all is over. This is, once again, the minus, which is exactly the same as the plus.

So as long as we are asking ourselves about heaven and hell, staying in the context of that question, we go around in vicious circles. As long as it is about me, as a person, about heaven, hell or nothing, never anything can be solved and we become opportunists, pious ones (we believe) or non-pious ones.

3. Here, as always, we are speaking of relationships or we are moving around in fantasies and non-entities. We live in the kingdom, when we are together with Jesus. And we know, because he gives us to know (not: the knowledge, but: to know, the knowing is always and again coming to us and happening to us), that our life is hidden with him in God.
4. So, we need not worry. We need not worry that very soon we will be forgotten after our death. We need not erect monuments for ourselves, hoping that people will remember. We are and will always be hidden, safe, with Christ in God.

The relationship stays, as that Algerian woman said. Everything we did in our life in relation to one another never will disappear. It works further, through history. Unrecognisable for those coming after us. But always real. What we did in relationships, in freedom, following Jesus, never will be undone. No life, no deed, ever is for nothing. God blesses it in His manner, without our knowing and understanding, and so everything works further as long as the world, as human culture exists.

5. We need not care about that. It is absolutely sure, although we don't know what, how, where. We can do, meeting other people, the small things, the signs of humanity, of the following of Christ, without any further thinking. They are and they remain. Our heart can be full of joy and gratitude that this is true.

And we ourselves, we remain. Once very soon, forgotten. Forgotten, hidden. Hidden with Christ in God. At home, forever.

6. This again means that we never need to care. We can live in today, without every worrying about tomorrow. We are now already hidden in God and what we do today, will stay. This is our freedom. We are again together with the lilies (Matt. 6, 28-30).