

Get your FOCUS Right ~ Colossians 3:1-4

→Scripture Reading- Colossians 2:20-23

INTRODUCTION

^{2:23} These Rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide NO HELP in conquering a person's evil desires. (NLT)

→ROAD

Legalism- Rigid Rules and Restrictions

License - NO Rules anything goes

GRACE - I choose Obedience

Set Your Heart and Mind Upward ~ Colossians 3:1-4

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your **minds** on things **above**, NOT on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ IN God. ⁴ When Christ, who IS your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Dead in Christ will Rise up FIRST 1 Thes 4:16

¹⁷ ...we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thes 4:17

Past tense- **Died with Christ**

Present Tense- **Hidden with Christ IN God**

Future Tense- **you also WILL Appear with Him**

Look UPWARD to Christ Reigning on His throne in Heaven - vs. 1-3

Look FORWARD to Christ Coming for us in the clouds - vs. 4

IMPLICATION

2 Corinthians 4:15-18 (NLT)

¹⁵ All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.

¹⁷ For our present troubles are SMALL and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

IMPLICATION

¹...you have been raised with Christ, SET your Hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² SET your Minds on things above, NOT on earthly things. (NIV)

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, IF anyone is IN Christ, he is a New Creation; the OLD has gone, the NEW has come!

TAKE AWAY ??

⁴ When Christ, who IS your LIFE, appears, THEN you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NLT)

¹³ And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with Him the believers who have died.

¹⁵ We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living WHEN the Lord returns will not meet Him ahead of those who have died.

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died Will Rise from their graves.

¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth WILL be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then WE will be WITH the Lord FOREVER.

¹⁸ So encourage each other with these words.