

**Colossians 2:20–23** (CSB)

<sup>20</sup> If you died with Christ to the elements of this world, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations:

<sup>21</sup> “Don’t handle, don’t taste, don’t touch”?

<sup>22</sup> All these regulations refer to what is destined to perish by being used up; they are human commands and doctrines.

<sup>23</sup> Although these have a reputation for wisdom by promoting self-made religion, false humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are not of any value in curbing self-indulgence.

# **Get you FOCUS Right**

**Colossians 3:1-4**

<sup>23</sup> 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**.

**LICENSE**

**LEGALISM**

**GRACE**



**Legalism** - Rigid Rules and Restrictions

**License** - NO Rules Anything goes

**GRACE** - I Choose Obedience

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,  
**SET your HEARTS** on **things above**,  
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> **SET your MINDS** on **things above**,  
not on earthly things.



1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup>...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.**

**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

**Look FORWARD** to Christ Coming for us in  
the clouds

2 Corinthians 4:15–18 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> **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.

<sup>16</sup> **That is why we NEVER give up.**

**Though our bodies are dying, our spirits  
are being renewed every day.**

<sup>17</sup> **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!

<sup>18</sup> 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.**

<sup>1</sup>...you have been **Raised with Christ**,  
**SET** your **Hearts** on things above,  
**where Christ is seated** at the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> **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!

<sup>4</sup> When **Christ, who IS your LIFE,**  
appears, **THEN** you also will appear  
with Him in glory.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NLT)

<sup>13</sup> 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**.

<sup>15</sup> 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.**

<sup>16</sup> 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.**

<sup>17</sup> 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.