

**Today's msg** - is the "**Then what?**" – **Answer**

To the "**Yeah But**" **questions** – that **last week's msg** raised

**The title** last week was – "**Sufficient or Not ?**" – **MEANING**

Is a **Real, Personal, Living relationship** with Jesus Christ  
**Really ENOUGH?** – Is it **FULLY SUFFICIENT?**

& the **very clear answer** was

**YES !** – **IN Jesus Christ** - & **THRU Jesus Christ**

**IS ALL** that we **need** – for our **ENTIRE LIFE** with God

**BOTH our life HERE** – **AND** – **Our ETERNAL LIFE**

---

---

& in our **LAST Msg** we were told;

To **NOT LET** anyone **CONDEMN** us

based on **Days** - or **Food** - or **Man-Made Religious Rules**

& the **Last Vs** in **Ch 2** "**dropped the hammer**" on us

**Which** is **what SETS UP** – **Today's** Msg

**Colossians 2:23 (NLT)**

***23 These rules (man-made religious rules & regulations) 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.***

& THAT is WHERE we started getting some "Yeah but's"

You know – "Yeah but what about all the rules. . ."

*"I thought all those rules HELPED me be RIGHT with God"*

*"I've been following those Religious Regulations all my life"*

But The Bible makes this Point very, very CLEAR

The Nation of Israel tried to Live for God by Following  
a MASSIVE Set of Religious Rules & Regulations

for 1500 yrs - & it never worked for them

---

---

All those Religious Rules actually BLINDED THEM  
from being able to SEE the Messiah

They couldn't SEE the Messiah  
Because the VEIL of Their Religious Rules

BLINDED THEM – to the Life-Giving, Transforming,  
Supremely Sufficient SAVIOR – that was sent from God

---

---

& Unfortunately – it's NOT Just the Jewish Religion

Solomon made it clear - *there is nothing new under the sun*

& there are still SO MANY Religions  
doing this same thing today

**The VEIL of their Religious Rules & Regulations  
is Blinding Them**

**from the Life that comes ONLY  
from the Supremely Sufficient SAVIOR**

---

---

**So today – we Begin to Answer the Question**

***“If I don’t live by all my Religious Rules  
& Regulations - Then WHAT DO I live by?”***

***If those Religious Rules don’t transform me – Then What Does?***

***If it’s NOT more Rules & Religion I need  
THEN WHAT DO I NEED – to transform my life?***

---

---

**Well – I’m Glad you asked**

In fact – I’m glad you asked – THREE TIMES

**Let’s Pray - & I believe the Word will answer that question**

---

---

**Let’s start w/ Colossians 3:1(a) (NLT)**

***1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, . . . [stop]***

The GREEK Word Translated SINCE  
***Means - ‘a fulfilled condition’***

**Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, . . .**

You may be reading a Translation that says, “*IF*” or “*IF THEN*”

Which may sound like a “Question Mark”

BUT – it’s NOT – It’s an EXCLAMATION POINT

If you have put your Faith in Jesus Christ  
& Received him as your Savior & Lord

Then – you HAVE BEEN buried with him in Death to Sin  
& RAISED to NEW LIFE – IN HIM (or with him)

---

So Again – Colossians 3:1 (NLT)

*1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand.*

*[BECAUSE] you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven*

NKJ says – seek those things which are above

*[BECAUSE] you have been raised to new life with Christ, seek those things which are above*

SINCE you have been raised to New Life with Christ,

Set your Sights - on the realities of HEAVEN

Be Constantly Seeking *the things of* HEAVEN

The Word “SIGHTS” (NLT) – Refers to your MENTAL FOCUS

Set your “*Mental FOCUS*” - on the Realities of Heaven

& the GREEK TENSE here is PRESENT – MEANING

**ALWAYS BE setting** your **SIGHTS** – (your **MENTAL FOCUS**)  
on the **Realities of Heaven**

**IT'S NOT Always** be **setting** your **MENTAL FOCUS**  
on the **Rules** & **Regulations** of your **Religion**

**IT'S** – **Always** be **Setting** your **MENTAL FOCUS**  
*on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place  
of honor at God's right hand.*

---

---

I was in a Greek Orthodox Monastery - & the small group of friends I was with had the opportunity to speak to a “Monk in Training”

& we got to Speak to him IN the Very Special Room where the Monks gather for 3 hours at the beginning of every day – to PRAY & RECITE Passages from their Book of LITURGY

& - As he was standing Next to the Podium with the Revered Book of the Liturgy - I asked him (In a soft monk-like voice) - Do you read from the Bible?

& with a puzzled look – he said – NO, it's all in this Book – as he lovingly laid his hand on the Book of Liturgy

& so – at home – I checked that book – I actually **SKIMMED** thru some of it online - & there were a lot of very Biblical thoughts and prayers - & there was scripture on some pages

But it was all wrapped in this beautiful “Revered Book” of the Rules & Regulations and Liturgies of the Greek Orthodox Church

---

---

BUT – the **PROBLEM IS** - The **JEWISH Religion** of **Jesus’ day**

**ALSO** had their “**Beautiful, Revered Scrolls**”

with all their **Rules & Regulations** and **Religious Writings**

& Their “**Revered Liturgy**” was **also**

**mixed with** some **wonderful things** about **God**

**But They were actually AT ODDS with Jesus Christ**

**SO much so** – that **they** made **sure** to **REMOVE**  
**ALL IMPACT** of His **Life** – From **their Religion**

& **there** are **Religions TODAY**

that **have done** the **exact same thing** to **Jesus Christ**

---

---

**So (again, again) - Colossians 3:1 says (NLT)**

**1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand.**

& **THEN** – **God’s Word** - **REPEATS this Command**

(**in the Original** – it is an **IMPERATIVE** – **Meaning** – a **Command**)

**Colossians 3:2 (NLT) → →**

**Colossians 3:2 (NLT)**

**2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.**

**Set your 'Mental Focus' on the Realities of Heaven**

**THINK about the things of Heaven – NOT the things of Earth !**

**NKJ says - Set your mind on things above**

**SINCE you have been raised to New Life with Christ**

**THEN – Set your mind on things of Heaven**

**& NOT – on the things of Earth**

---

---

**What effect does our mind have on our actions ??**

**Our mind is a Very Powerful thing  
& where we focus it . . . WE GO**

We see this in ALL Sporting Events  
Baseball, Football, Soccer, Tennis, Golf – AND Dirt Bike Riding

**ALL these things  
have ONE very important thing in common**

**Where You SET YOUR MIND  
Is where you are Going to Go**

The way to CATCH (or HIT) a ball –  
is to SET YOUR MIND on the ball

**The way to get a ball TO GO**

where you **want it to go**

is to **SET YOUR MIND**

on the place you **want the ball to go**

**In Dirt-Bike riding**

you **focus intently** on **Where** you **WANT** to **GO**

**NEVER** on where you **DON'T WANT** to **Go** . . .

**Because you ARE going to go - where you SET Your Mind**

---

---

**& So God's Word says;**

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ*

**THEN Set your Mind - Set Your Sights - Set your Focus**

**On** the **THINGS OF HEAVEN** - & **NOT OF EARTH**

**Because Where** you **SET YOUR MIND**

**is the direction** you are **going to go**

---

---

**You** are **going** to **EITHER**

**Move toward** the things of **Eternal Life**,

**Or toward** the **things of this Fallen World**

**BASED ON** Where you **Set your MIND**

**BASED ON** *what you* **constantly FOCUS ON**

---

---



**SO . . . IF - you have been raised to new life with Christ  
& IF - your mind is set on the things of this world**

Then **YOU ARE IN DIRE STRAIGHTS !**

**& trying to follow a bunch of Rules is NOT going to help you**

---

---

**Last Week - Col 2:23 made it clear - the Rules Approach  
provides NO HELP in conquering your Sin Nature**

Because **Rules & Religion** applied from the **OUTSIDE**  
Will **NEVER** actually give you **New Life INSIDE**

**Your New Life - MUST come - from the INSIDE – OUT**

**If you want to actually LIVE  
in the New Life Christ has given you**

**You've got to set your Sights (& mind)  
on the things of heaven  
& not on the things of earth**

---

---

**In V.3 – we see the “Logic” of setting our Sights & Minds  
ON things above - & NOT on things of this life**

**Colossians 3:3 (NLT)**

**3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**When you received Jesus Christ as your Lord & Savior**  
**you DIED to THIS life**  
**& your REAL life became “hidden” in Christ**

**So WHY now would you Set Your Mind**  
**on a Life that you DIED TO?**

---

---

**IF INDEED - you have been raised to new life with Christ**

**AND IF you Truly Want to begin living that NEW LIFE**

**THEN Set your mind (sights) on where your REAL LIFE is**  
**& STOP setting your mind on a life you have DIED TO**

---

---

**What does that mean that your REAL LIFE is “Hidden With Christ”**

**Well . . . Vs’s 3-4 together – give us some idea . . .**

**You died to this life when you Received Jesus as your Savior**  
**& now your REAL LIFE is “Hidden with Christ in God”**

**BUT - The Fullness of your New Life in Christ**  
**is in some ways Hidden (concealed) – from you & this world**

**That’s what Vs. 3 says**

---

---

But then – **Look VERY CLOSELY at - Col 3:4 → →**

**Colossians 3:4 (NLT)**

***4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.***

**You died to this life when you were Born-Again  
& now your REAL LIFE is “*Hidden with Christ in God*”**

But In many ways – the Fullness of your New Life in Christ  
is Hidden (concealed) – from YOU & THIS WORLD

**HOWEVER – THERE IS a day coming  
When Jesus Christ will be revealed**

**& When He is Revealed  
the Full Reality of your New Life will be Revealed with Him**

**& when it is – you will SHARE IN ALL HIS GLORY - for Eternity**

---

**Honestly – it is impossible to fully GRASP  
the Eternal SIGNIFICANCE of this**

**BECAUSE . . . (as v.3 says)  
*your real life IS HIDDEN with Christ in God.***

**We talk a LOT about this in our 5-part Heaven Series  
(*That you can get on the Ph App or Website*)**

But – **Just listen to these two Vs's**

## **1 John 3:2 (NLT)**

***2 Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.***

**There is a TON of Awesomeness in that Vs**

## **But then – Add to it Colossians 1:27 (NLT)**

***27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.***

**When our New Life is Fully Revealed;**

***We will be Like Him – We will Share His Glory***

So - **Don't** set your **SIGHTS** - & your **MIND**  
**On a Life** that you've **DIED TO**

**Instead** – set your **SIGHTS** & your **MIND** on your **REAL LIFE**

That is **hidden in Christ** - for now

**but soon** it will be **fully revealed** (*both to you - & to the world*)

---

---

**YOUR ROLE** – in the ***Transforming Power*** of the **Christian Life**

Is to **Set your SIGHTS**, & your **MIND**

On your **REAL LIFE** in **Christ**

Then **Jesus Christ living in you** - **does all the rest**

<p><b><u>Because</u></b> a <b><u>REAL</u></b> – <b><u>Living Relationship</u></b> with <b><u>Jesus Christ</u></b> is <b><u>Supremely Sufficient</u></b> for your <b><u>Entire Life</u></b> with God</p>
---

**IF YOU** are **Setting** your **SIGHTS**, & your **MIND**  
on your **REAL LIFE** in Christ

**THEN** – You will **be TRANSFORMED**  
& **you** will **be able** to “**Put to Death**” the **things of this world**

---

**NEXT WEEK** - **We are going to Look at HOW**

**A REAL** – **Living Relationship** with **Jesus Christ**  
is **Supremely Sufficient** To **TRANSFORM your Life**

Both **HERE** – **AND** – For **ETERNITY**

But **for today** – Let's **skip down** to

**Colossians 3:10 (NLT)**

***10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. – [REPEAT]***

**Let's Pray** these **Vs's** to **close**

**If** you **have** your **Bible**  
**please look** at **these vs's** as I **pray** them

**Or** – you **can look** at the **vs's** on the **screen** as I **pray**

**Let's Pray**

### **Colossians 3:1–4 (NLT)**

***1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.***

***2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.***

***3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.***

***4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.***

### **Colossians 3:10 (NLT)**

***10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.***