

## The Power Of A Single Verse: Colossians 3:1

This week's power verse should remind you of last week's power verse—and reinforces the idea of looking up. Last week we were looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. This week, in Colossians 3:1, we are also looking unto Jesus—and our identity in Him. This physical act of looking up is powerful! I don't wish to take my cues of worldview or self-worth from what I see around me. This world is dying from the inside out, while I am being renewed daily by the Holy Spirit:

### **2Corinthians 4:16**

*For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: God's Word is not a legal letter, but a love letter. In other words, He desires to speak to you through His Word. Knowing this, what priority does God's Word have in your life? What lifestyle adjustments might you make to allow for more time with God and His Word?

\*STUDY POINT: Write down six men or women—in the Old or New Testament—who best exemplify a Word-centred life. Below their names, write down Scripture references that reveal their individual love of God and His Word.

Since God's Word will never pass away (Luke 21:33), I need to invest my time, focus, mind, heart, and emotions in His Word. The time I invest in earthly things is important also, as I want to enjoy the life Christ died to give me. However, the root truth in Colossians 3 teaches us to prioritize eternal matters—who we are in Christ, a burden for soul winning, and understanding that our intimate connection with Jesus and study of His Word is key to manifesting abundant life and love. Also, this upward focus of our spiritual eyes is key in putting to death sin in our lives:

### **Colossians 3:5-7**

*Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.*

To frame Colossians 3:1 in proper context, let's look at these verses:

### **Colossians 2:20-23**

*Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.*

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

Paul is admonishing his audience to continue in Jesus, and not be persuaded to follow man-made rules and regulations again. These outward rituals, he emphasizes, do nothing to silence the sensuality of the flesh. Paul then shows them the better way—Jesus! Now with this context, Colossians 3:1-4 has its intended effect, which is to encourage God's children to not look around but to look up.

And as Colossians 3:1 has been a precious verse for me, I pray it will encourage you to find joy, hope, mission, and your whole identity above with Jesus Christ.

Amen!

~ Reverend Darren McClelland