

The beginning of Colossians 3 is what is known as a transitional text—it is bridging the previous section of Colossians to what comes next. The first part of Paul’s letter reiterates the Gospel message (over and over), he then speaks about the nature and character of God (over and over), and now he moves into application. **Col 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ...**

What does it mean for you to have been raised with Christ?

Paul’s transition is important to understand how the rest of Colossians flows. If we miss that he is talking to those who are justified by faith in Christ, we might believe that what he goes on to teach is what justifies us. We do not want to have a “works-based mentality.” Paul will warn us about that by saying, “*If you have been raised with Christ ...*” He emphasizes that love for Christ brings about transformed lives.

Why is it important to understand that nothing other than Christ can justify us?

- Do you believe that you are/have sinned? That you personally have openly rebelled against God?
- Do you believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, sent as the wrath-absorbing sacrifice for your sins?
- Do you have genuine affection for God?

Everyone has “dark nights of the soul” where doubts come. Is there within you a genuine desire to submit to and humbly walk with the God of the universe? All of us grow in godliness as we trust Jesus.

How have you seen growth in your own life?

1. Seek the things above -

Because we have been justified by God, we are to remember Christ’s work on our behalf. He has given us all we need and all that He’s promised, which is Himself.

2. Seek AND set your mind on things above –

Since we have been justified by God alone, let us look to what is above, Christ *at the right hand of God*. Let’s set our mind on Him and not on earthly things.

3. Seek, set, and REMEMBER our lives are with Christ –

Paul says we need to remember that we are justified and made righteous—not by how well we follow—but by Christ alone.

How do you seek, set, and remember?

Col 3:4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. That is a promise!
