

**LIVING THIS LIFE FOR THE NEXT
LIFE**



SCRIPTURES

- ▶ **Col. 3:1-3** – “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
- ▶ **2 Cor. 4:17-18** – “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while **we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.** For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

SCRIPTURES

- ▶ 2 Pet. 3:10-14 – “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,** ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ **Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless”**

SCRIPTURES

- ▶ Phil. 3:20 – “**For our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”
- ▶ Matt 6:31-33 – “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**”

SCRIPTURES

- ▶ Heb. 11:13-16 – “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

FAITH REQUIRES LIVING LIFE FOR THE NEXT LIFE

- ▶ This is what Jesus meant by being “in” the world but not “of” the world – Jn. 17:11,14
- ▶ These passages are *not* saying that we should have no interest in current affairs.
 - ▶ Col. 3:2 – We must care because some present affairs affect our service to God and present significant injustices to others
 - ▶ 2 Cor. 4:18 – We are to care about our brethren and the things that bring people sorrow and grief, happiness and joy
 - ▶ What they say is that heaven is to be our goal and we are not to be distracted from our pursuit of it!

WORLDLY ISSUES...

- ▶ Will Trump be re-elected?
- ▶ Will the AHA be completely scrapped?
- ▶ Will our economy continue to be strong?
- ▶ Will Social Security go bankrupt?
- ▶ How will the stock market affect my retirement?
- ▶ What can we do about illegal immigration?
- ▶ Should our military be spread around the world?
- ▶ Is global warming real and should I be taxed and hindered in what I do to conform to some environmental policy?

WORLDLY ISSUES...

- ▶ Should tax codes be reformed or should we go to a flat tax?
- ▶ How many alternative environmental
- ▶ Should trucking be allowed?
- ▶ What should be done about air, water, and land pollution?
- ▶ Is the mainstream media fair and objective and what can be done to fix this?

**I am not trying to be
political**

WORLDLY ISSUES...


- ▶ Should tax codes be reformed or should we go to a flat tax?
- ▶ How much should we spend on alternative energy and environmental protection?
- ▶ Should trucking be allowed?
- ▶ What should be done about air, water, and land pollution?
- ▶ Is the mainstream media fair and objective and what can be done to fix this?

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WE MUST BE PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON THE NEXT LIFE

- ▶ That doesn't mean taking on a "nothing in this life matters" attitude.
- ▶ Ex: What would you think of an eldership that dissolved to become a full-time political activists?
 - ▶ Would you think they had mixed up priorities?
 - ▶ The work of elders is far more important than any political ambition or issue!
 - ▶ Should we be any less focused on heaven than elders?

THIS HEAVENLY VIEW MUST DOMINATE OUR LIVES

- ▶ Everything should be challenged by asking, “Is this likely to hinder me in my desire to go to heaven when this life is over?”
 - ▶ This includes...
 - ▶ Choosing a girl/boyfriend or friends
 - ▶ Choosing a college to attend
 - ▶ Choosing a career and job
 - ▶ Choosing a marriage partner
 - ▶ Choosing, if any, a social and civic organization
 - ▶ Choosing a hobby, etc.
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THREE MORE SCRIPTURES

- ▶ Heb 10:34 – “For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.”
 - ▶ Living this life for the next life affects our attitude toward material possessions.
- ▶ 1 Tim. 4:8 – “For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”
 - ▶ Looking beyond this life gives us a different perspective on health issues.

THREE SCRIPTURES

- ▶ 2 Pet 3:10-13 – “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”
 - ▶ As you reflect on this passage, ask yourself: “How important should the environment be to Christians?”
 - ▶ We live with a much different view than those who try to “save the world” but care nothing about saving souls.