

Life in Christ Colossians 3:1-4

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

What does it mean to be _____? Today we're going to _____ what it means to be alive in Christ, to truly live. God's Word is _____ in wisdom and truth. It provides the guidance and promises that we need to have _____ life. God's Word _____ us to faith, hope, and love. That is why we turn to this great resource; it has no _____.

John Lennon in his song, "Imagine," asked us to imagine there's _____ heaven or hell, and he painted a picture of people living only for _____ and not having any accountability to a higher power. That was Lennon's fantasy, but it's _____ a fantasy. Our physical lives in this world are not all that there is to life; we're _____ than flesh and blood. We have a _____ that will live long after our bodies are buried in the grave. Real life also has to take the soul, the spirit, into account.

In a time of _____, the Lord Jesus knew that He was more than just a body that has physical needs. The tempter challenged Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of _____." But the Lord Jesus answered the tempter, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every _____ that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). We are God's creatures: body, soul, and spirit. We are made in His _____. "And in Him we _____ and _____ and have our very being" (Acts 17:28). Let's not fool ourselves. We cannot live without responsibility or accountability to the God who _____ us life. We must listen to _____ word that comes from the mouth of God. Only in Jesus Christ can we have _____ life.

Our reading today comes from Paul's Epistle to the Colossians 3:1-4.

We only have one life, so we must not _____ it with the things that do not matter and will not last. Many people invest their lives in the here and now, never giving a thought to the _____. Moses wrote, "So teach us to _____ our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). We must be _____. Wisdom to God means taking God's teaching into our hearts and lives so that we never _____ from His Word.

A man once came to Jesus and said, "'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' Jesus warned the man, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not _____ in the abundance of his possessions'" (Luke 12:15). Life is not about possessing; it's about _____ and _____ others. When our hearts grow selfish and our desires take _____, we may be cutting ourselves off from the true life. When we

take our eyes off of God and turn to fleshly pleasure, we _____ ourselves from God. God said, “but she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is _____ even while she lives” (1 Timothy 5:6). She may be physically alive, but she is spiritually dead. She has no _____ with God. The difference between being _____ in sin and being _____ in Christ is astounding! So let’s explore today what it _____ to have a life in Christ.

First, in Christ we have a _____ life. Have you ever had the _____ to start over again fresh? Sin _____ our hearts and defiles our consciences. Past _____ haunt us and shame us. How we wish that we could start over! **Read the conversation of Jesus with Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, in John 3:1-8.** Why would we _____ to be born again? We need a new birth because _____ has caused us to die spiritually. First Peter 2:24 says that the Lord Jesus “bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” We needed saving and we needed healing. The only way this can happen is if we die to the _____ man and we’re born again to a _____ and different kind of life.

Conversion to Christ is a transforming experience that _____ us away from the sin that destroys us to a life that is _____ from sin. When by faith and in repentance we _____ ourselves with Christ in baptism, God transforms our lives. **Read Romans 6:3-7.**

The Lord set us _____ from sin and its enslavement so that we could live a life filled with _____ things. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** God doesn’t _____ us where He _____ us but transforms us into people who love to do what is good and what blesses everyone. That is the new life!

Second, in Christ we have an _____ life. Jesus said, “I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). The word “abundant” refers to that which is plentiful, to the point of _____ every need and more. **Read what Jesus promised in Luke 6:38.** When we give ourselves to live for Christ, we get _____ in return than we can imagine.

In Christ we have _____. To trust in One who loves you and has been a constant _____ in your life isn’t something to be taken lightly. Nobody _____ you like Jesus. No one has died upon the _____ to give you a new life but Jesus. For this reason you can _____ Him as no other. Paul said “I have been crucified with Christ. And it’s no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). When Christ lives within you by faith, you’ll _____ by faith and not by sight,; you’ll think and act as the Lord wills. This will _____ everyone.

The hope that we _____ because of our life in Christ is more than abundant. To know that we have a _____ in heaven, to know that He has _____ for us daily, and to know that we have our heavenly Father to _____ us, gives us an assurance that cannot be measured. To know that His ears are always open to our _____ and that He wants to hear us gives us strength when we're weary, comfort in our sorrow, and a reminder that He truly _____ us.

In Christ, we have _____ of our past sins. We all live with the _____ of our past. Though some don't want to admit that there is such a thing as sin, our consciences bear _____ to it. No matter who we are or what we've been taught, the _____ of guilt touches every life. The only true answer to that guilt is found in the _____ of Jesus Christ; and His blood can _____ away that painful sin and _____ the conscience. God's forgiveness opens the _____ for us to see ourselves in a new light. We can see the old man of sin _____, while that new man can _____ in righteousness. We don't have to be trapped in sin. The Lord Jesus promised, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). When we are free from sin, we're also able to be free from the _____ and the _____ that go with it. God forgives us so that we can _____ our old lives of sin.

We can never see God's love displayed more strongly than on the cross, and yet we shouldn't think that God's love _____ at the cross. Romans 8:32 says, "He who did not _____ His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely _____ us all things?" God's love _____ us in every aspect of our lives, and He does it every _____. He is our Father, concerned about _____ detail of our lives. When we _____, we can turn to Him. When we are _____, we can turn to Him for strength. When life is filled with _____, we can take our worries to the Lord. First Peter 5:7 says, "casting all your anxiety on Him, because He _____ for you." He truly cares about every aspect of our lives. God's love is _____.

Because we can cast our anxieties on Him, we have _____ peace of heart and mind. It's this kind of relationship that causes us to have confidence in God's _____ that He's with us and near us every single minute of our lives. **Read Philippians 4:4-7.** We can truly have the peace that passes all understanding because our God is _____ us when we most need Him.

All of these spiritual blessings in Christ bring us an incredible _____. There is joy in forgiveness; there is joy in peace; there is joy in love, joy in hope, and joy in God's abiding care. Being a Christian provides us with the greatest _____. Nothing else _____. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 13:44-46.** Being in God's family, the church, being a child of God, is just such _____, just such a pearl of great price. This treasure outshines them all because it has no _____ and no _____. It's the complete treasure of a relationship with God who loves us beyond all that we can _____.

Third, in Christ, we have _____ life. The word “eternal” means that it has no _____. The Lord Jesus said, “And this is eternal life, that they _____ you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3). Eternal life is not merely endless; it’s a life _____ with the love and the fellowship of God. Psalm 16:11 promises, “You will make known to me the path of life; And in Your presence is the fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.” It is God Himself that makes _____ so sweet and so beautiful! **When** someone says imagine there’s no heaven, I ask why? Because we have a life in Christ, heaven is our _____; heaven is our _____, and heaven is our _____! I don’t want one minute of my life here on earth to be _____ the love of God. Why would I _____ my life in Christ and the hope of heaven for anything? I can’t imagine doing that.

Because of Christ, I can have _____ in my eternal salvation. **Read 1 John 5:11-13.** We have God’s written _____ in Scripture to give us assurance. So why does this matter? It matters because you matter; it matters because your _____ matters. You are deciding in this life _____ you will spend eternity. Spend it with God, that’s the only right _____ to make.

Take a look at the life that you’re _____ living, the words you speak, the choices you make, and your behavior. Some of you are living _____ the Lord and _____ Him with all your heart. Some are living with a _____-_____ devotion with one hand grabbing at the world and the other hand holding to the Lord. Millions haven’t been to _____ in years except for weddings and funerals. Some who used to call themselves Christians are now saying they have no _____, and many have never even known a life in Christ. Are you _____ spiritually, while you _____ physically? If you have no life in Christ, you’re _____ on new life, abundant life, and eternal life, and the only life that can get you to heaven. You’re _____ yourself out of a wonderful, loving relationship with the God who made you and gave you life and breath and all things. Why?

How are you _____ God? If having a close loving relationship with God is eternal life, how are you getting along with God? **Read Hebrews 6:7-8** that was written to some Christians whose hearts had grown _____. How we treat God today is like that land, and it’s going to lead to how we will end up in _____. Please, please, don’t lose your soul! God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

To become a Christian, place your _____ in the Lord Jesus and in the gospel, turn from sin in _____, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be _____ into Christ. When you’re baptized in water, you’re baptized into His death; and His blood will cleanse you from sin and will give you that newness of life (as we noted in Romans 6:3-4). If you’ve fallen away from the cross, come home to the Lord and come home to His church.