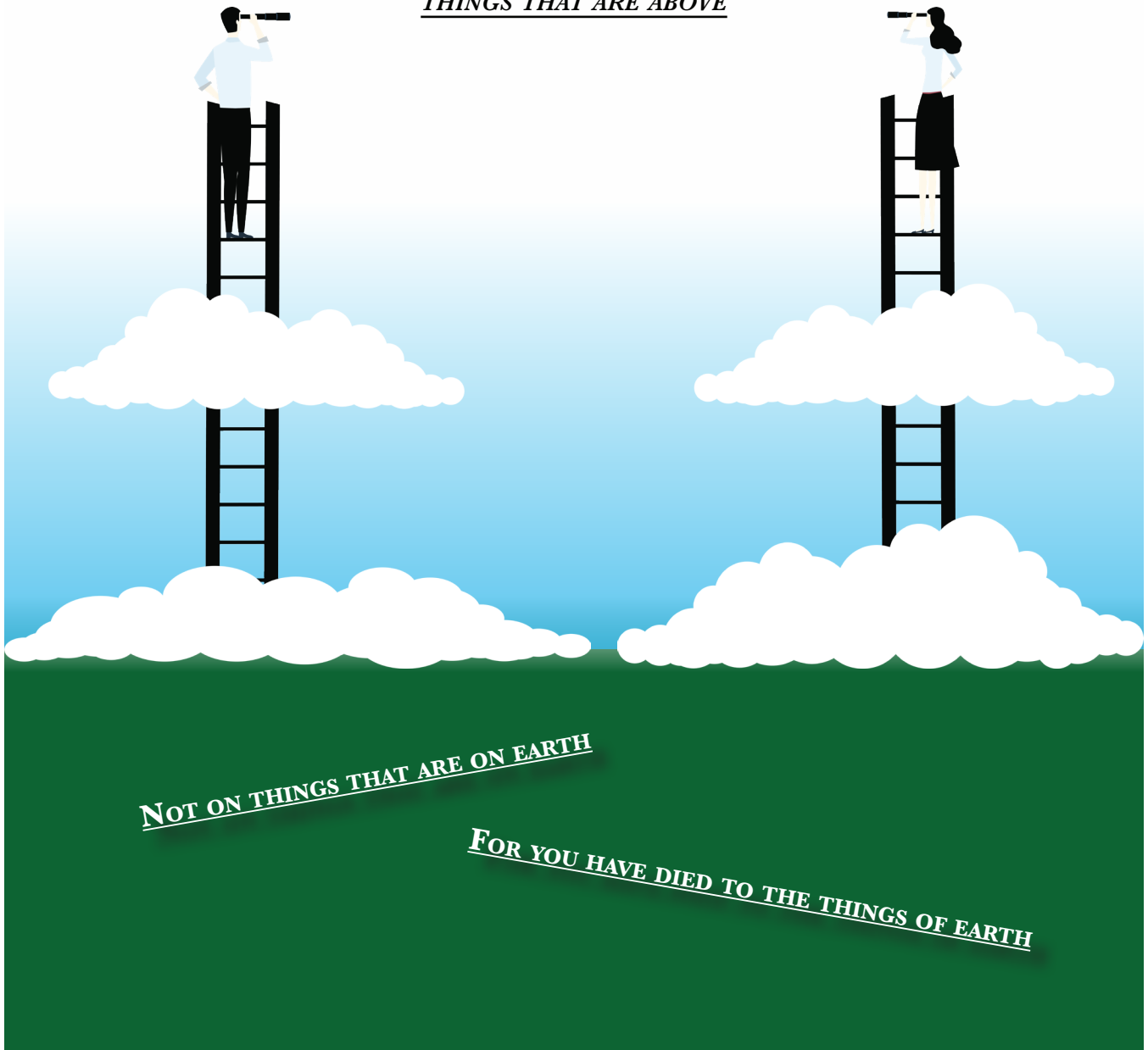


LIVING YOUR RISEN LIFE IN CHRIST

IF YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST

SET YOUR MIND ON
THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE



NOT ON THINGS THAT ARE ON EARTH

FOR YOU HAVE DIED TO THE THINGS OF EARTH

FOUR QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

—FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST ... AND ... WHOSE “LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD”—

WE ARE NOT TO LOOK AROUND, BUT UP!

The deceived person looks to the world around him for wisdom. But he will find only the wisdom of demons and sinful humans on the earth below. We must set our minds on the things above to live the risen life—the abundant life our Lord offers.

- This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic (James 3:15 ESV).

QUESTION #1

ARE YOU SEEKING THE THINGS ABOVE?

1. TO LIVE YOUR RISEN LIFE, YOU MUST SEEK THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE, 3:1.

- (Colossians 3:1 ESV) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

A. Seek God's kingdom.

... seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness ... (Matthew 6:33 ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

... Seek the city that is to come ... (Hebrews 13:14 ESV) For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

B. Seek God's will.

... seek the Father's will ... (John 5:30 ESV) I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

... seek to be filled with the knowledge of God's will ... (Colossians 1:9 ESV)

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

C. Seek God's glory.

... seek the glory that comes from the only God ... (John 5:44 ESV) How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

... seek for glory but do not be self-seeking ... (Romans 2:6–8 ESV) He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

... Do not seek glory from people ... (1 Thessalonians 2:6 ESV) Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.

QUESTION #2

HAVE YOU SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE?

2. TO LIVE YOUR RISEN LIFE, YOU MUST SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE, 3:2.

- (Colossians 3:2 ESV) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

A. Set your mind on the things of God.

- (Matthew 16:23 ESV) But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! **You are a hindrance to me.** For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

B. Set your mind on the things of the Spirit.

- (Romans 8:5–8 ESV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

good or bad ... positively or negatively ...

IS OUR VIEW OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE A VIEW FROM ABOVE OR BELOW?

And is it possible that we may find our biggest challenge in living our new life in Christ is being able to separate ourselves from our old life on earth?

"YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD" BY GOD.

... the work of God the Father in seeing to our salvation ...

- (Colossians 1:12–14 ESV) Giving thanks to **the Father, who has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 **He has delivered us** from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

B. You must separate yourself from this life to live the abundant life that Christ offers.

You have been delivered from this evil age.

- (Galatians 1:3b–4 ESV) ... the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

You must separate yourself from close, spiritual relationships and intimate partnerships with people who are still captive to the darkness and have not truly believed God for light and life.

- (2 Corinthians 6:14–17 ESV) Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you.

QUESTION #3
HAVE YOU DIED TO YOUR OLD LIFE?

3. TO LIVE YOUR RISEN LIFE, YOU MUST ACCEPT AND MOVE ON FROM THE DEATH OF YOUR "EARTHLY" LIFE, 3:3.

- (Colossians 3:3 ESV) **For you have died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

A. Your new position is DEAD TO this world and ALIVE TO God ... forever ...

You must reject any and all teaching that attempts to convince you that your "with Christ in God" position can be altered ...

QUESTION #4
ARE YOU LIVING YOUR NEW LIFE?

4. TO LIVE YOUR RISEN LIFE, YOU MUST ACCEPT YOUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, 3:3-4.

- (Colossians 3:3-4 ESV) **For you have died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

A. Now that Christ is your life you are alienated from—dead to—this world and the ways of this world.

- (Colossians 3:3a) **For you have died ...**
- (Ephesians 4:17-18 ESV) Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that **you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do**, in the futility of their minds. 18 **They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

B. Now that Christ is your life and you have been reconciled to God, you are in an irreconcilable relationship with the world you left—a world that remains alienated and hostile to God.

- (Colossians 1:21-22 ESV) And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

C. Now that Christ is your life you have a purifying hope—the belief in the objective reality of his coming again—that will transform your life in anticipation of his appearance.

- (1 John 3:3 ESV) And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.
- (Colossians 1:5 ESV) Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel.

[Excerpt From: Piper, John. "The Pilgrim's Progress." Desiring God. Apple Books.]

He [BUNYAN] quotes 2 Corinthians 1:9 where Paul says, "We had this **sentence of death** in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God that raiseth the dead."

Bunyan writes, By this scripture I was made to see that if ever I would suffer rightly, **I must first pass a sentence of death upon every thing that can be properly called a thing of this life, even to reckon myself, my wife, my children, my health, my enjoyment, and all, as dead to me, and myself as dead to them.**"

[END EXCERPT]

