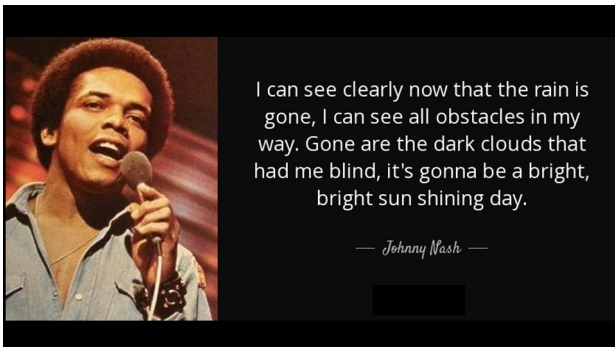




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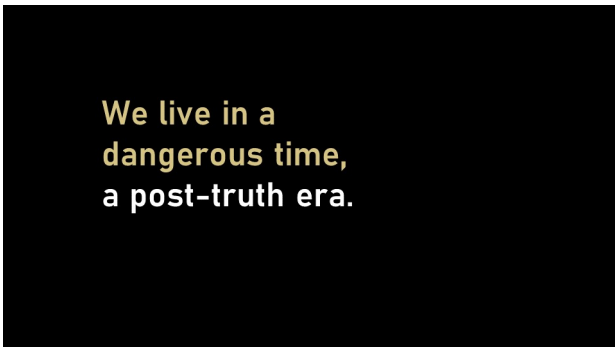
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4



5



6

At this time of major distractions, how do we keep the main thing the main thing?

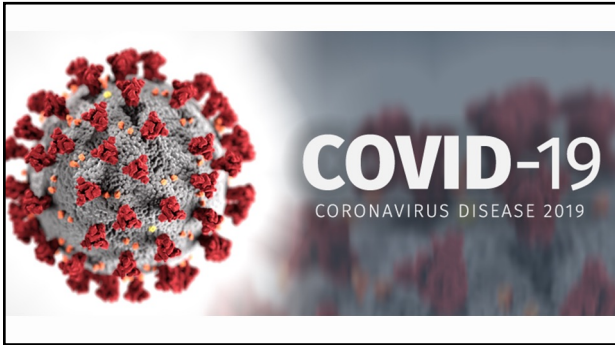
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Think of the things that compete for your attention!

8



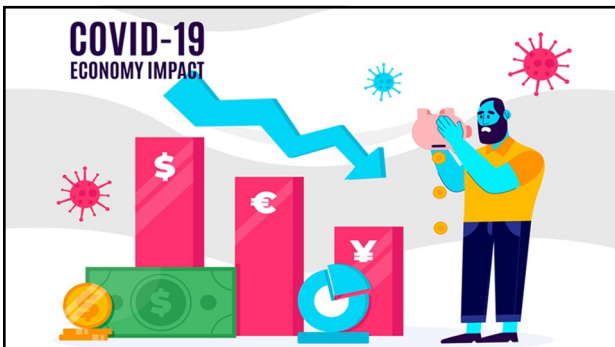
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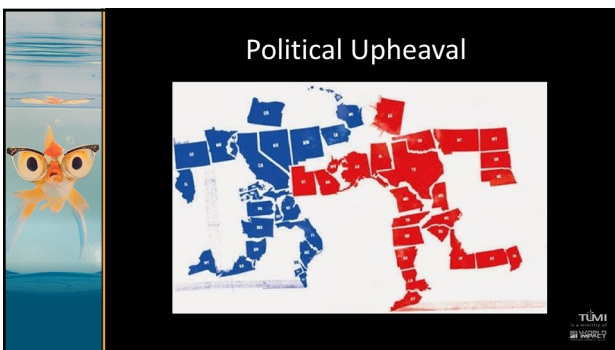
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14



15



19




Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

Isaiah 26.3-4 (ESV)
³ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

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We can cope with and overcome today's confusion, noise, and distraction by focusing on Christ, who is our life.

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4



I. Explaining the Scripture text



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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4



I. Explaining the Scripture text
II. Exploring the theme in Scripture




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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

I. Explaining the Scripture text
II. Exploring the theme in Scripture
III. Experiencing one of the theme's take-aways




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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4




25




Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4

A. Seek the things that are above (*transfer*), Col. 3.1-2




26




Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

Colossians 3.1-2 (ESV)

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.




27




Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4

A. Seek the things that are above (*transfer*), Col. 3.1-2



28




Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4


I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4

A. Seek the things that are above (*transfer*), Col. 3.1-2

1. We have been united to Christ, v. 1a



29




Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4


I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4

A. Seek the things that are above (*transfer*), Col. 3.1-2

1. We have been united to Christ, v. 1a
2. Because we are, we must seek the things that are above, where Christ is, v. 1b



30



Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4

A. Seek the things that are above (*transfer*), Col. 3.1-2

1. We have been united to Christ, v. 1a
2. Because we are, we must seek the things that are above, where Christ is, v. 1b
3. Set your minds on the things above not on the earth, v. 2

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The following are the captions for the images in the grid:

- 1. The Creation of Light
- 2. The Creation of Earth
- 3. The Flood
- 4. The Tower of Babel
- 5. The Birth of Jesus
- 6. The Baptism of Jesus
- 7. The Temptation of Jesus
- 8. The Sermon on the Mount
- 9. The Parable of the Sower
- 10. The Parable of the Mustard Seed
- 11. The Parable of the Leaven
- 12. The Parable of the Tares
- 13. The Parable of the Wheat and Tares
- 14. The Parable of the Net
- 15. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

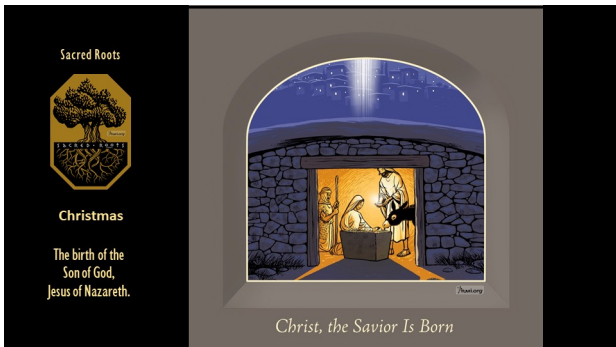
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34




35




36

Sacred Roots



Epiphany


Jesus Christ—
Israel's glory, and
the light of the
world.



O Come, Let Us Adore Him


37

Sacred Roots



Epiphany


Jesus Christ—
Israel's glory, and
the light of the
world.



Jesus, the Light of the World


38

Sacred Roots



Lent

The lowly Son of
God journeys to
Calvary.



Take Up Your Cross, and Follow Me!


39

Sacred Roots



Holy Week


Christ our Passover is slain for us.



Christ, Our Passover, Has Been Slain

40

Sacred Roots



Easter


Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.



He Is Risen, Indeed!


41

Sacred Roots



Ascension


Christ is crowned as King at God's right hand.



Ascended to the Right Hand of God


42

Sacred Roots



Pentecost

The Holy Spirit is come, and has formed the Church.



The Comforter Is Come

43

Sacred Roots



Pentecost: Headship


Jesus must reign till all enemies are under his feet.



Reigning Lamb, Head of the Church


44

Sacred Roots



Pentecost: Harvest

Proclaim Jesus as Lord to the ends of the earth.

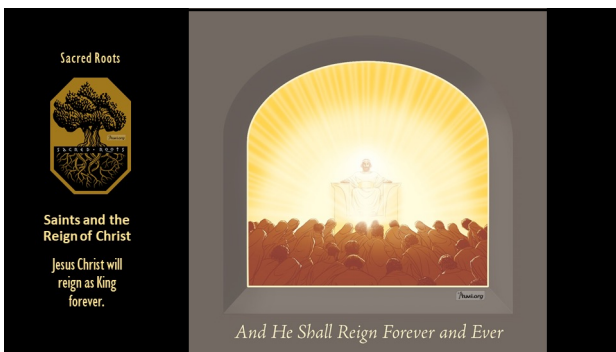


Go into All the World, and Proclaim Him

45



46



47



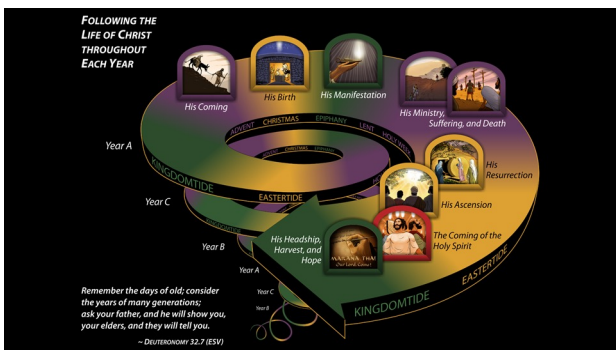
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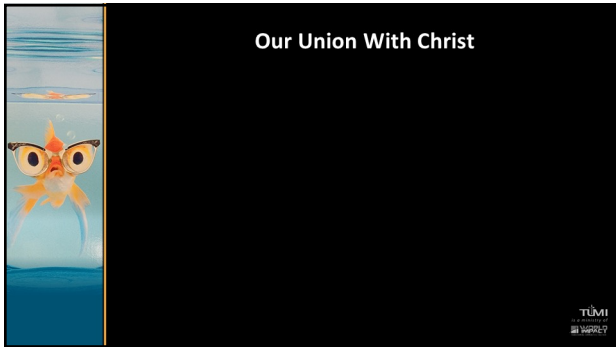
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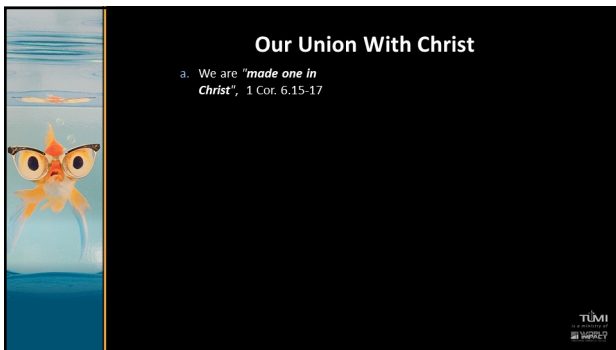
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51




52



53




54




Our Union With Christ

- a. We are **"made one in Christ"**, 1 Cor. 6.15-17
- b. We **were baptized into him**, 1 Cor. 12.13
- c. We **died with him**, Rom. 6.3-4




55




Our Union With Christ

- a. We are **"made one in Christ"**, 1 Cor. 6.15-17
- b. We **were baptized into him**, 1 Cor. 12.13
- c. We **died with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- d. We **were buried with him**, Rom. 6.3-4




56




Our Union With Christ

- a. We are **"made one in Christ"**, 1 Cor. 6.15-17
- b. We **were baptized into him**, 1 Cor. 12.13
- c. We **died with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- d. We **were buried with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- e. We **were raised with him**, Eph. 2.4-7



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Our Union With Christ

- a. We are **"made one in Christ"**, 1 Cor. 6.15-17
- b. We **were baptized into him**, 1 Cor. 12.13
- c. We **died with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- d. We **were buried with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- e. We **were raised** with him, Eph. 2.4-7
- f. We are **ascended with him**, Eph. 2.6

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Our Union With Christ

- a. We are **"made one in Christ"**, 1 Cor. 6.15-17
- b. We **were baptized into him**, 1 Cor. 12.13
- c. We **died with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- d. We **were buried with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- e. We **were raised** with him, Eph. 2.4-7
- f. We are **ascended with him**, Eph. 2.6
- g. We **sit with him** in heavenly places, Eph. 2.6

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Our Union With Christ

- a. We are **"made one in Christ"**, 1 Cor. 6.15-17
- b. We **were baptized into him**, 1 Cor. 12.13
- c. We **died with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- d. We **were buried with him**, Rom. 6.3-4
- e. We **were raised** with him, Eph. 2.4-7
- f. We are **ascended with him**, Eph. 2.6
- g. We **sit with him** in heavenly places, Eph. 2.6
- h. We **suffer with him**, Rom. 8.17-18

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Our Union With Christ

<p>a. We are "made one in Christ", 1 Cor. 6.15-17</p> <p>b. We were baptized into him, 1 Cor. 12.13</p> <p>c. We died with him, Rom. 6.3-4</p> <p>d. We were buried with him, Rom. 6.3-4</p> <p>e. We were raised with him, Eph. 2.4-7</p> <p>f. We are ascended with him, Eph. 2.6</p> <p>g. We sit with him in heavenly places, Eph. 2.6</p>	<p>h. We suffer with him, Rom. 8.17-18</p> <p>i. We will be glorified with him, Rom. 8.17</p>
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Our Union With Christ

<p>a. We are "made one in Christ", 1 Cor. 6.15-17</p> <p>b. We were baptized into him, 1 Cor. 12.13</p> <p>c. We died with him, Rom. 6.3-4</p> <p>d. We were buried with him, Rom. 6.3-4</p> <p>e. We were raised with him, Eph. 2.4-7</p> <p>f. We are ascended with him, Eph. 2.6</p> <p>g. We sit with him in heavenly places, Eph. 2.6</p>	<p>h. We suffer with him, Rom. 8.17-18</p> <p>i. We will be glorified with him, Rom. 8.17</p> <p>j. We will be resurrected in him, 1 Cor. 15.48-49</p>
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Our Union With Christ

<p>a. We are "made one in Christ", 1 Cor. 6.15-17</p> <p>b. We were baptized into him, 1 Cor. 12.13</p> <p>c. We died with him, Rom. 6.3-4</p> <p>d. We were buried with him, Rom. 6.3-4</p> <p>e. We were raised with him, Eph. 2.4-7</p> <p>f. We are ascended with him, Eph. 2.6</p> <p>g. We sit with him in heavenly places, Eph. 2.6</p>	<p>h. We suffer with him, Rom. 8.17-18</p> <p>i. We will be glorified with him, Rom. 8.17</p> <p>j. We will be resurrected in him, 1 Cor. 15.48-49</p> <p>k. We will see him as he is, 1 John 3.2</p>
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Our Union With Christ

a. We are "made one in Christ" , 1 Cor. 6.15-17	h. We suffer with him , Rom. 8.17-18
b. We were baptized into him , 1 Cor. 12.13	i. We will be glorified with him , Rom. 8.17
c. We died with him , Rom. 6.3-4	j. We will be resurrected in him, 1 Cor. 15.48-49
d. We were buried with him , Rom. 6.3-4	k. We will see him as he is , 1 John 3.2
e. We were raised with him, Eph. 2.4-7	l. We will be made like him , 1 John 3.2
f. We are ascended with him , Eph. 2.6	
g. We sit with him in heavenly places, Eph. 2.6	

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Our Union With Christ

a. We are "made one in Christ" , 1 Cor. 6.15-17	h. We suffer with him , Rom. 8.17-18
b. We were baptized into him , 1 Cor. 12.13	i. We will be glorified with him , Rom. 8.17
c. We died with him , Rom. 6.3-4	j. We will be resurrected in him, 1 Cor. 15.48-49
d. We were buried with him , Rom. 6.3-4	k. We will see him as he is , 1 John 3.2
e. We were raised with him, Eph. 2.4-7	l. We will be made like him , 1 John 3.2
f. We are ascended with him , Eph. 2.6	m. We are joint-heirs with him , Rom. 8.17
g. We sit with him in heavenly places, Eph. 2.6	

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Our Union With Christ

a. We are "made one in Christ" , 1 Cor. 6.15-17	h. We suffer with him , Rom. 8.17-18
b. We were baptized into him , 1 Cor. 12.13	i. We will be glorified with him , Rom. 8.17
c. We died with him , Rom. 6.3-4	j. We will be resurrected in him, 1 Cor. 15.48-49
d. We were buried with him , Rom. 6.3-4	k. We will see him as he is , 1 John 3.2
e. We were raised with him, Eph. 2.4-7	l. We will be made like him , 1 John 3.2
f. We are ascended with him , Eph. 2.6	m. We are joint-heirs with him , Rom. 8.17
g. We sit with him in heavenly places, Eph. 2.6	n. We will reign forever with him , Rev. 3.6

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
 Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4
B. Set your focus on Christ (*shift*), Col. 3.3-4

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
 Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

Colossians 3.3-4 (ESV)
³ 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.

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
 Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4
B. Set your focus on Christ (*shift*), Col. 3.3-4

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4


I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4

B. Set your focus on Christ (*shift*), Col. 3.3-4

1. We have died, and our life is hidden with Christ with God, v. 3

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4


I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4

B. Set your focus on Christ (*shift*), Col. 3.3-4

1. We have died, and our life is hidden with Christ with God, v. 3
2. Christ is our very life, v. 4

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4


I. Explaining the Scripture text, Col. 3.1-4

B. Set your focus on Christ (*shift*), Col. 3.3-4

1. We have died, and our life is hidden with Christ with God, v. 3
2. Christ is our very life, v. 4
3. When Christ appears, we will appear with him in glory, v. 4b

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

1 Corinthians 1.27-31 (ESV)
²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

1 Corinthians 1.27-31 (ESV)
²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4


II. Exploring the theme in Scripture,
 Col. 3.1-4

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We who believe have been united to Christ, who is our life.




76




We must see, experience, and respond to all things in their relation to Christ alone.




77



Every Christ-follower on earth is de facto a member of the . . .




78




**Every Christ-follower on earth is
de facto a member of the . . .**

***the one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church!***




79




Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

Colossians 3.11 (ESV)
¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.




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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ:
our Mediator



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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation



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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation
- **In** Christ: our Life-giver




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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation
- **In** Christ: our Life-giver
- **Under** Christ: our Lord



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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation
- **In** Christ: our Life-giver
- **Under** Christ: our Lord
- **With** Christ: our Secret

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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation
- **In** Christ: our Life-giver
- **Under** Christ: our Lord
- **With** Christ: our Secret
- **Unto** Christ: our Goal

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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation
- **In** Christ: our Life-giver
- **Under** Christ: our Lord
- **With** Christ: our Secret
- **Unto** Christ: our Goal
- **For** Christ: our Lover

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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation
- **In** Christ: our Life-giver
- **Under** Christ: our Lord
- **With** Christ: our Secret
- **Unto** Christ: our Goal
- **For** Christ: our Lover
- **Like** Christ: our Model

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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*

- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation
- **In** Christ: our Life-giver
- **Under** Christ: our Lord
- **With** Christ: our Secret
- **Unto** Christ: our Goal
- **For** Christ: our Lover
- **Like** Christ: our Model
- **By** Christ: our Champion

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Theology of Prepositions
John Stott, *Focus On Christ*



- **Through** Christ: our Mediator
- **On** Christ: Foundation
- **In** Christ: our Life-giver
- **Under** Christ: our Lord
- **With** Christ: our Secret
- **Unto** Christ: our Goal
- **For** Christ: our Lover
- **Like** Christ: our Model
- **By** Christ: our Champion
- **Behind** Christ: our Shepherd

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4



Galatians 2.20 (ESV)
²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is 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.

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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

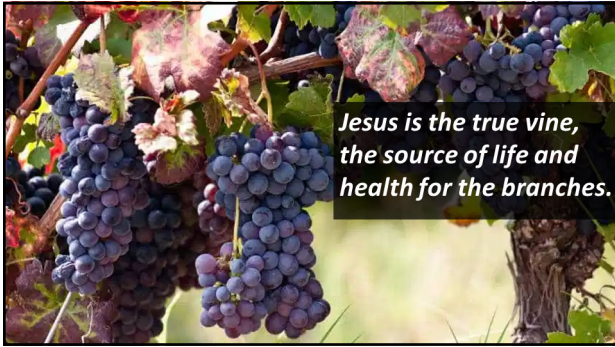
John 15.4-5 (ESV)
⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

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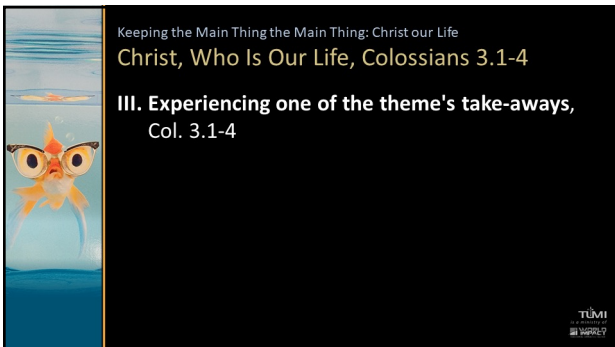
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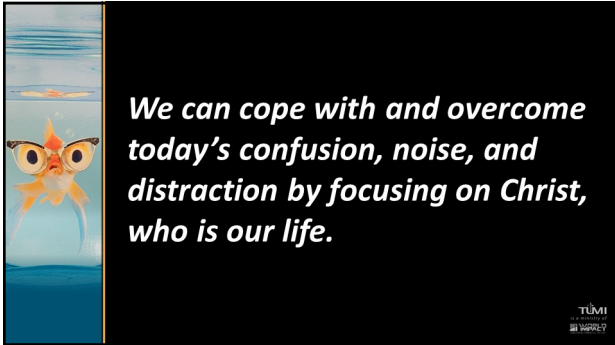
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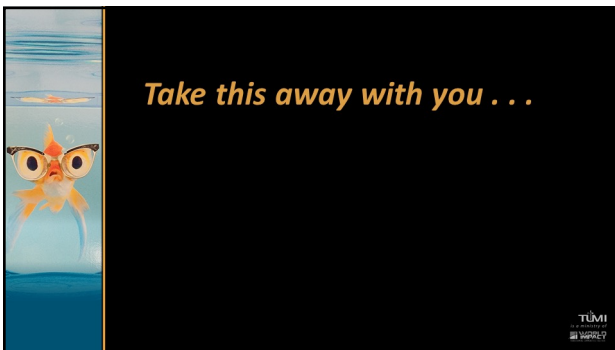
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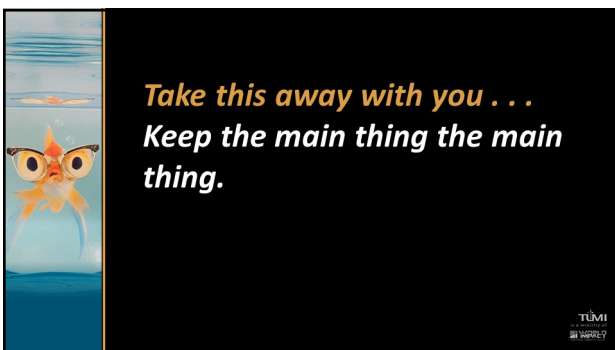
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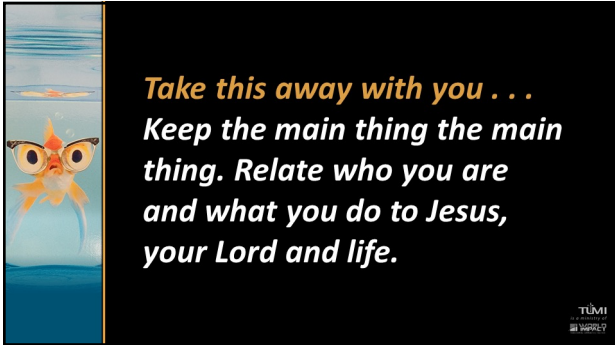
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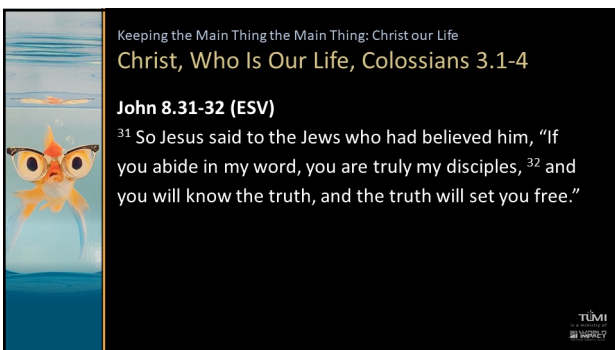
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101




102




Keep *the Master* as the main thing in . . .

- Your *devotional life*




103




Keep *the Master* as the main thing in . . .

- Your *devotional life*
- Your *time and money*




104




Keep *the Master* as the main thing in . . .

- Your *devotional life*
- Your *time and money*
- Your *family and relationships*




105




Keep **the Master** as the main thing in . . .

- Your *devotional life*
- Your *time and money*
- Your *family and relationships*
- Your *allegiances and conduct*




106




Keep **the Master** as the main thing in . . .

- Your *devotional life*
- Your *time and money*
- Your *family and relationships*
- Your *allegiances and conduct*
- Your *job and vocation*




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Keep **the Master** as the main thing in . . .

- Your *devotional life*
- Your *time and money*
- Your *family and relationships*
- Your *allegiances and conduct*
- Your *job and vocation*
- Your *service and ministry*




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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Let Christ give you new eyes

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in **having new eyes.**"

— Marcel Proust




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Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing: Christ our Life
Christ, Who Is Our Life, Colossians 3.1-4

2 Cor. 4.17-18 (ESV)

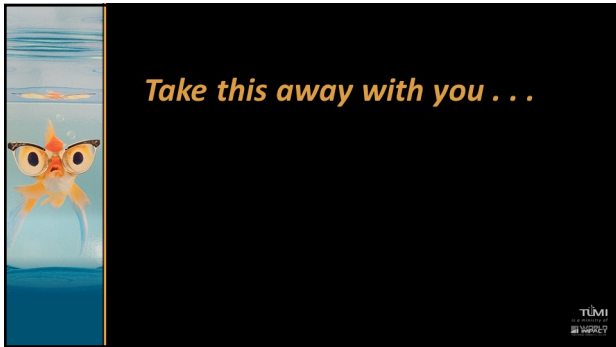
¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



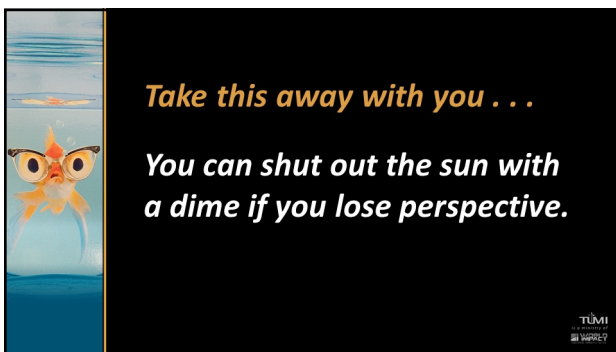
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111



112



113



114



115



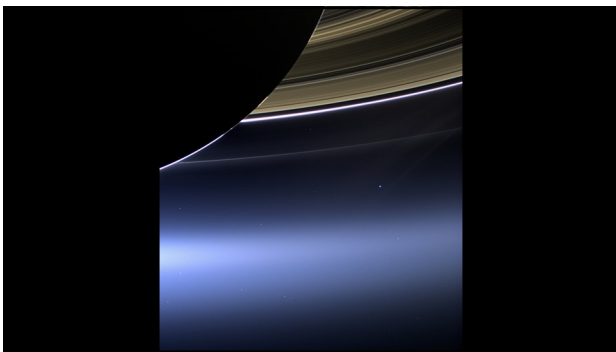
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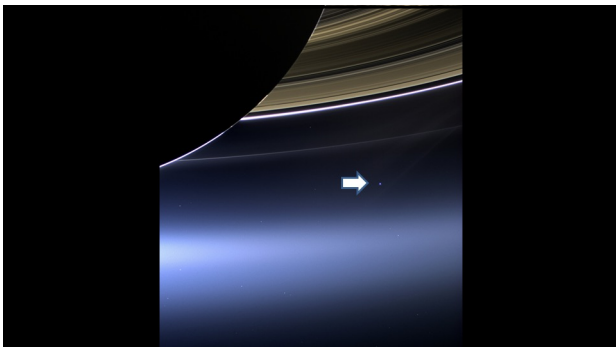
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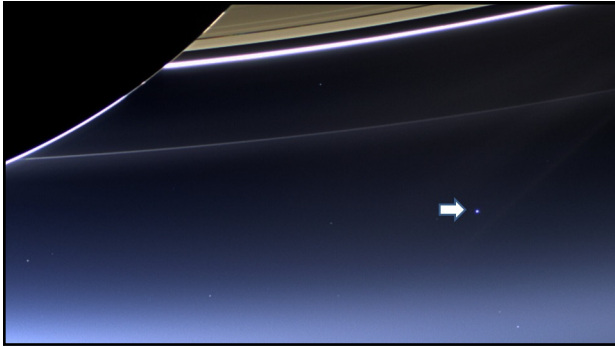
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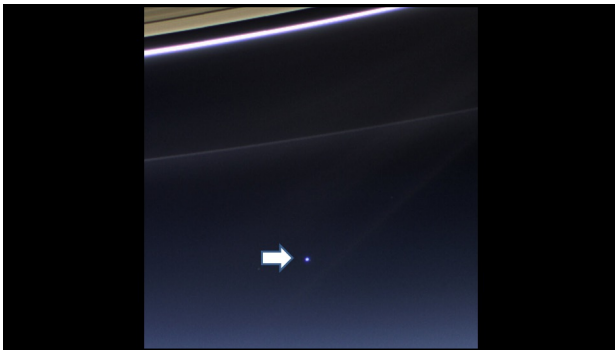
119



120



121



122

For Me to Live Is Christ
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Christ be my Anchor, and Christ be my Heart
Christ be my Whole, and Christ be my Part
Christ be my Glory, and Christ be my Good
Christ my Salvation, and Christ be my Food

123

For Me to Live Is Christ

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Christ be my Ransom, and Christ be my Gaze
Christ be my Passion, and Christ be my Praise
Christ be my Jewel, and Christ be my Friend,
Christ my Beginning, and Christ be my End.

124

For Me to Live Is Christ

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Christ be my Sov'reign, and Christ be my King
Christ be my Worship, and Christ Ev'rything
Christ be my Doctrine, and Christ be my Creed
Christ be my Shelter, and Christ be my Need.

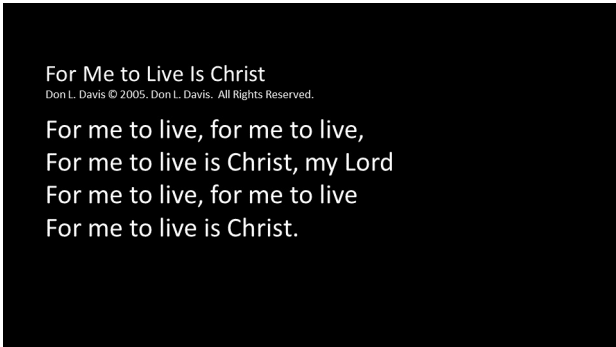
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For Me to Live Is Christ

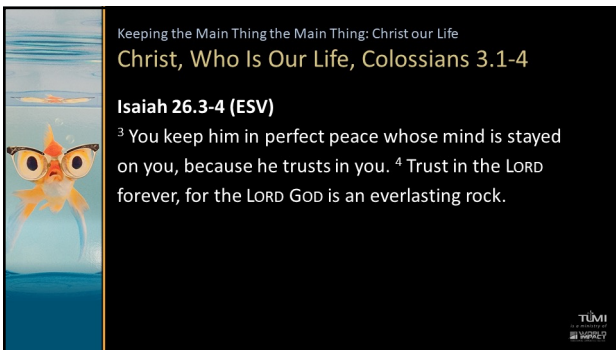
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Christ be my Armor, and Christ be my Might
Christ be my Lantern, and Christ be my Light
Christ my Foundation, and Christ be my Stone
Christ be my Heaven, and Christ be my Home.

126



127



128



129



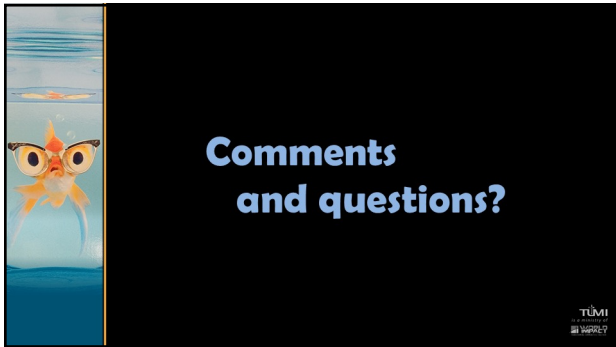
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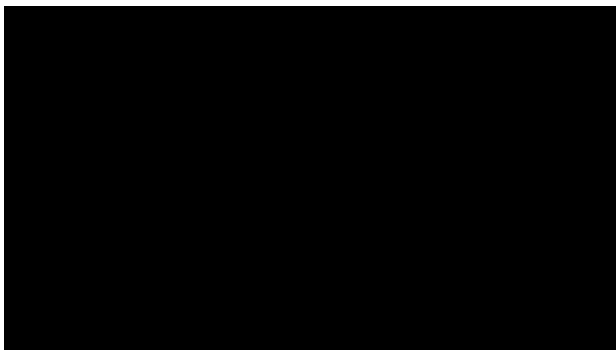
131



132



133



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