

# What is this life?

Study Questions

# What is this life?

We get caught up in the *necessities of life* so easily. Life on this earth commands much energy expenditure and can occupy much of our attention.

But this life here is only a very tiny part of the Big Picture. Scripture puts it in proper context, referring to it as “a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

The day-to-day tasks and occupations of physical life are needful, but they can easily, and in deed for most Believers, normally do, take prime focus in our lives.

This companion study guide provides sets of questions to help assess areas of needed spiritual growth relative to this subject. It is intended to accompany the study: What is this Life?

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# Questions for Personal Introspection or Group Discussion

## How it Was... How it Is

From the creation account in the first two chapters of Genesis, what conclusions can be made regarding the following:

The image of God / his nature:

The image/nature of man:

The purpose of man:

God's intended relationship with man:

God's intention regarding the structure of a man's life:

The purpose of God's curse on the ground, "for thy sake":

*Note the definition of sake is "in the interest of, in order to achieve or preserve, for the purpose of obtaining, out of consideration for or in order to help"*

Are there implications about livelihoods/jobs? What indications are there about engaging in hard work, about breaking a sweat?

Does the creation account and the description of the *fall* of mankind, have implications about human contentment, satisfaction and fulfillment that I can apply to my life?

## Family Responsibility

When a father spends time and energy on bringing up his children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," is that focused on things eternal or things temporal? Why?

How does a husband's headship and sacrificial love for his wife compare in significance to his other important responsibilities as a husband?

As a husband, what priority do I place on the responsibilities detailed in Ephesians 5:22-27 and regarding my children in Ephesians 6:4 and Proverbs 22:6,15? What can I do to increase victory in these areas of my life?

As a wife, how can I be a better help to my husband in these areas?

How might victorious family living (reckoning our own flesh dead, and yielding to the working of his word in our hearts regarding family life), positively affect *the lost*?

## Our Great Provider

In light of all the work we have to do day-to-day, how is God our true provider? If God is my provider, why do I have to work so hard?

Do I agree with the Wissman song? Why or why not?

When Jesus said, “Life is more than meat, and the body more than raiment,” what did mean by that? How might that truth help me follow Paul in Philippians 4:11 and heed his instruction in Colossians 3:15?

## Focus and Affection

What are some of the “things on earth” that God is speaking of in Colossians 3:2? What are the things above?

What do I think about the focus of Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-12? What are the implications for my prayer life?

What did Paul mean in Colossians 2:15-16 when he wrote that we are to, "as wise," "walk circumspectly?"

What changes could I make to shift the focus of my life from the earth to things above?

Does my career choice tend to push me away from the Lord? Does it tend to overwhelm my mind and/or heart? What can I do to minimize that?

What can I do to increase the time I spend reading and studying God's Word?

As a husband/father, what can I do to model setting my “affection on things above?” How can I lead my family in this?

As a wife/mother, what can I do to encourage and motivate a heavenly mindset within my family? What specific support can I provide my husband in this area?

As an unmarried adult, what distractions are unique to my type of situation, and how can those be overcome? What opportunities in this area do I have that a married adult does not have? How can I encourage, motivate and model this heavenly mindset within my home and beyond?

As a young member of my family, how can I firmly establish lifelong habits that shift my focus to things that have eternal value? Are there priorities that I have that need to change? What help can I ask for in this area from my Dad and my Mom?



## Prayer

What was the primary focus of the prayers that Paul modeled for us in his letters?

What is the primary focus of my prayers?

What, practically, does 1 Thessalonians 5:17 mean?

What also of Ephesians 6:18 and Philippians 4:6?

How does that fit into a life focused on the things of this world?

How does that fit into a life focused on things above?

What does my prayer life say about where my affection lies (about the persistent bent of my mind)?

## Deceit

What are the rudiments of the world, that Colossians 2:6 warns against?

How is it that “the tradition of men” could spoil (rob, take by force, plunder) me? What particular risks are there for me in this area?

What of philosophy and vain deceit? What is that, and how might it deceive me? Is my view of God, of man, and even of my own life tainted by philosophy and vain deceit?

In light of Paul's statement that “we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.” What do I need to do to keep that perspective?

## Our Jealous God

In what ways is God a Jealous God?

What behaviors do I engage in that might provoke God to jealousy.

When I step back and look at how I have structured my life, how I have set my priorities, and what regular activities occupy my time, does it look like there are things that I love more than God?

What does Matthew 10:39 mean? How can I better align my thinking and behavior to be on the right side of that equation?

## Good Soldier

Do I have hardness to endure in my life? If not, why not? If so, what am I going to do about that? How does “2 Timothy 3:12 (Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution) fit into this?

What do I make of the phrase “walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing” in Paul's prayer for the Believers in Colossians 1:9-12? And how does that relate to my being a “soldier of Jesus Christ?”

Can we please God in our role of soldier if we are wrapped up in the things of this life? How might our soldiering better please God if we were not entangled?

## Getting it to 212F

What *temperature* do I estimate I am at regarding my faith / my spiritual walk? How do I think others would assess my *temperature*? Does God consider me lukewarm (like the Laodiceans)?

Do I have an intense, sweet relationship with The Lord?

Does God get number one place in my heart, my mind?  
How devoted to the Lord am I? Am I 100% in? What does that look like?

What, in my life, can cause me to move away from the Lord?  
What hinders my ability to “stand fast in the faith?”

What about my day-to-day activities? What are they focused on? What should they be focused on? Should I be making changes? What is my plan around this?

How should the admonition in 1 Corinthians 16:13 impact my life?

How can I structure my life such that dealing with the necessities of life do not result in me being just lukewarm? How do I stay or become HOT in my relationship with the Lord? How do I get it to 212?!

## Ministry Focus

What would it look like in our modern day to be addicted to the Lord and his service, *addicted* to the ministry?

How does our relationship with the Lord, and our service to him, fair against the term *addicted*?

What can change, in order to drive us deeper into addiction? (don't quote that sentence out of context ;-)

Is there a downside to being addicted to the ministry? If so, is it worth it?

Paul, our example, said, "what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." Can I echo those words? If they are not true for me, why not?

God said, “Awake thou that sleepest.” Is there a sense in which I sleepeth, or is it a fair assessment that I “liveth unto God?”

In what areas of life might I better redeem the time? How can I do that?

What type of ministry or ministries do I have?

What does it mean to walk circumspectly? What should we be watching for?

Why does God use the term *redeem*, when addressing our use of time? How would my life look differently if I were better able to redeem the time?



## Whole Heartedness

When we reckon ourselves alive unto God, what should be evident in our attitudes and emotions?

How successful am I at reckoning myself alive unto God? Am I in action, cheerfully, excitedly ready and willing to serve the Lord wherever and however he may lead?

What does it mean in Colossians 3 to “do all in the name of the Lord Jesus?”

How can someone that is overcome with pain live heartily as unto the Lord?

In living alive unto God, being aware I am a member of his body, how ought 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 come to bear in my life?

Who do I know in the Body of Christ that is really hurting? How can I encourage that person?

What opposition do I have or expect to have, as I follow the wisdom of God which is so contrary to the world?

What ever I do, do I “do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men?” What can I do to be more victorious in this area?

## The Fear of the Lord

How does the Bible describe God? And with what intensity?

Is our God an awesome God?

What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen God do in your lifetime?

What benefit does *the fear of the Lord* provide to a Believer?

When we hold the Word of God in our hands, do we tremble as did men who were faced with one of God's holy angels? Why or Why not?

Do I see God so highly that I fall down in worship before him? How can I elevate my view of the Lord and keep that in my mind?

## The Conclusion

What does Galatians 5:25 mean when it says to “walk in the Spirit?” Am I doing that?

What things in my life am I holding on to too tightly? What in this life hinders my relationship with the Lord and my setting of affection on things above?

My overall conclusions from this study:

The high level plan for aligning my life with the life God intends me to live:

*Together For Truth Ministries*