



# *Living For* **HEAVEN**

## **Keeping Our Focus**

**Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 6:19-34; 7:13,14, 21-27; 25:1-46;  
Philippians 3:7-4:1; Hebrews 12:1-3**

## **WALKING IN HIS STEPS**

SERMON SERIES: **GROWING IN CHRIST**

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## *Where We Have Been*

- 1. What Becoming A Christian Is All about**
- 2. What We Have In Christ**
- 3. Increasing In The Knowledge of God**
- 4. Standing Against Evil Forces**
- 5. Giving All Diligence To Grow**
- 6. Bearing Fruit That Honors God**
- 7. Growing By Serving In The Body**
- 8. Living For Heaven - Keeping Our Focus**

# Bearing **FUIT** / **Serving** The Body

*He who abides in Me, and  
I in him, bears much fruit*

OF THE SPIRIT –  
Gal. 5:22,23

REPRODUCTION-  
converts – Romans  
1:13; 1 Cor.  
3:10-14

OBEDIENCE-  
Abiding in Jesus'  
words– John  
15:7-11

WORD in the  
HEART –  
Luke 8:11

Of LIPS – worship  
& edification –  
Hebrews 13:15;  
Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16

WISDOM /  
UNITY– James  
3:13-18; Eph.  
4:1-4; Phili 2:1-5

RIGHTEOUSNESS–  
Phili 1:11; 2 Cor.  
9:10; Heb 12:11



# Living For **HEAVEN** / Keeping **FOCUS**

## The Whole Point

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Phili 3:20)*

## HEAVEN is Where We ALL Want To Be!



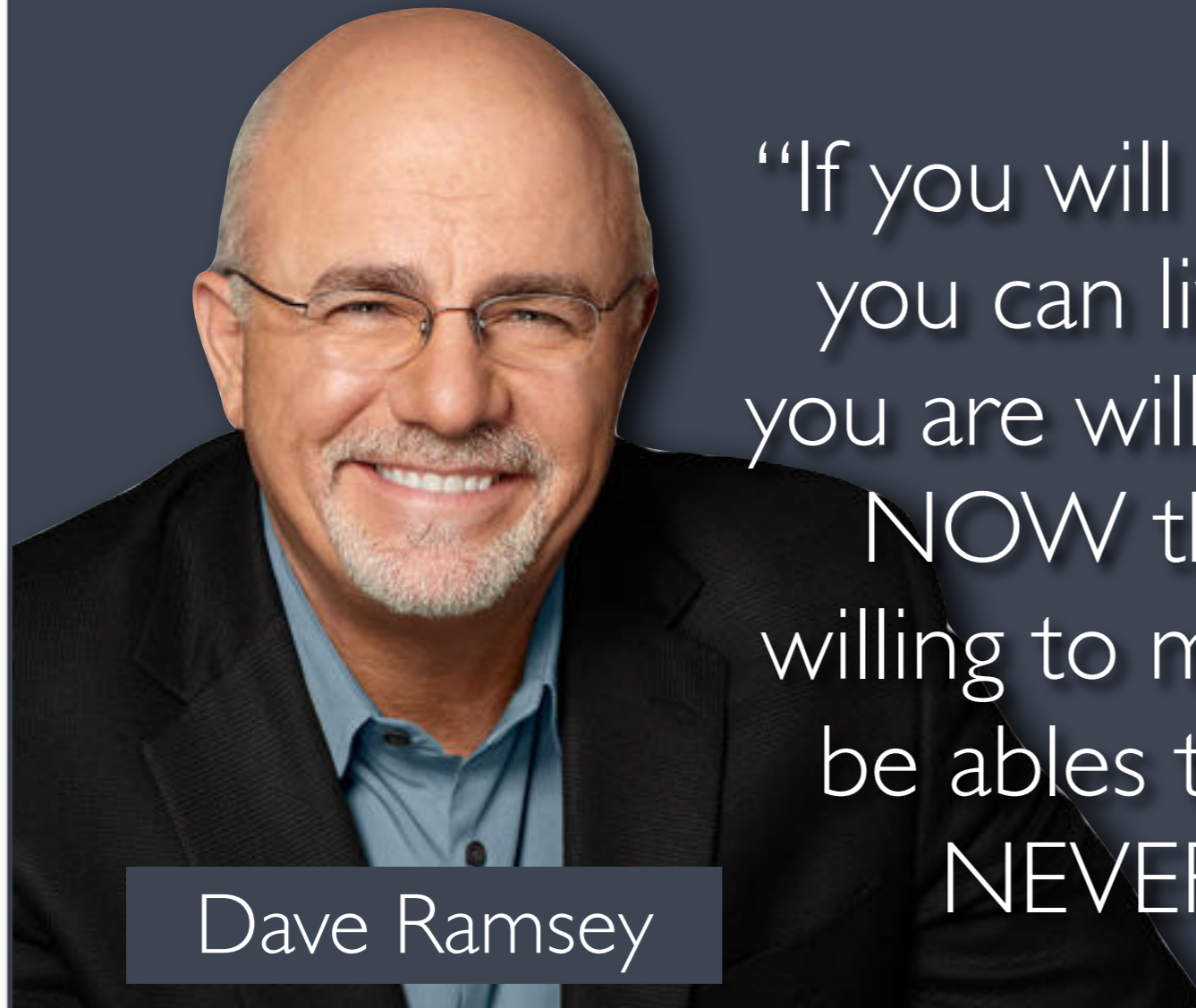
- ▶ The whole point of this series is to help us be equipped that we may obtain heaven — Hebrews 10:35-39; 11:13-16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Mat. 25:34,46
- ▶ The journey is NOT EASY — MOST will NOT reach heaven — but **we can & will IF** we accept the **instructions** of God, receive the **training** He gives, and **follow** the path blazed by Jesus — Mat. 7:13,14; Hebrews 12:1-29

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## The Whole Point

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**HEAVEN** / a prepared place for a **PREPARED** PEOPLE



Dave Ramsey

“If you will live like no one else, later you can live like no one else ... If you are willing to make the sacrifices **NOW** that most people aren't willing to make, **LATER ON** you will be ables to live as those folks will **NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE.**”

# Philippians 3:17–21 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. <sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: <sup>19</sup> whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

# Philippians 3:17-21 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven,  
from which we also eagerly wait for  
the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>  
who will transform our lowly body  
that it may be conformed to His  
glorious body, according to the  
working by which He is able even to  
subdue all things to Himself.

# Colossians 3:1-4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

# Living For **HEAVEN** / Keeping **FOCUS**

**Saved To LIVE** *“... When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.. (Colossians 3:4)*

## The JOURNEY BEGAN ...



### Colossians 3:1 (NKJV)

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

#### ▶ **SINCE WE WERE RAISED WITH CHRIST**

- “If then you were” – First class conditional clause – i.e. “Since you have been”
- “Raised with Christ” – A reference to what occurred when they were baptized – (2:12,13; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27)
- The Christian has been made spiritually alive in Christ and is to live for Him – (Eph 2:5,6; 2 Cor 5:15)

# Living For **HEAVEN** / Keeping **FOCUS**

**Saved To LIVE** *“... When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.. (Colossians 3:4)*

## The JOURNEY CONTINUES ...



### Colossians 3:1 (NKJV)

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.



### SEEK THOSE THINGS ABOVE

- Seeking to obtain – (Mat 6:20, 33)
- With “eagerness” – (Phil. 3:20)
- Recognizing the extreme Value of spiritual things – (Mat 13:44,45)
- Seeking Things which Last Forever – (2 Cor. 4:17,18)
- Seeking to arrive at a FAR BETTER Place – (Heb. 11:13-16)
- To be with Christ — (Rom. 8:29,30; Heb 12:1-3; John 14:3-6)

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**Saved To LIVE** *“... When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.. (Colossians 3:4)*

## The JOURNEY CONTINUES ...



**Colossians 3:2  
(NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Set your mind  
on things above,  
not on things on  
the earth.

### ► Set your mind on things above

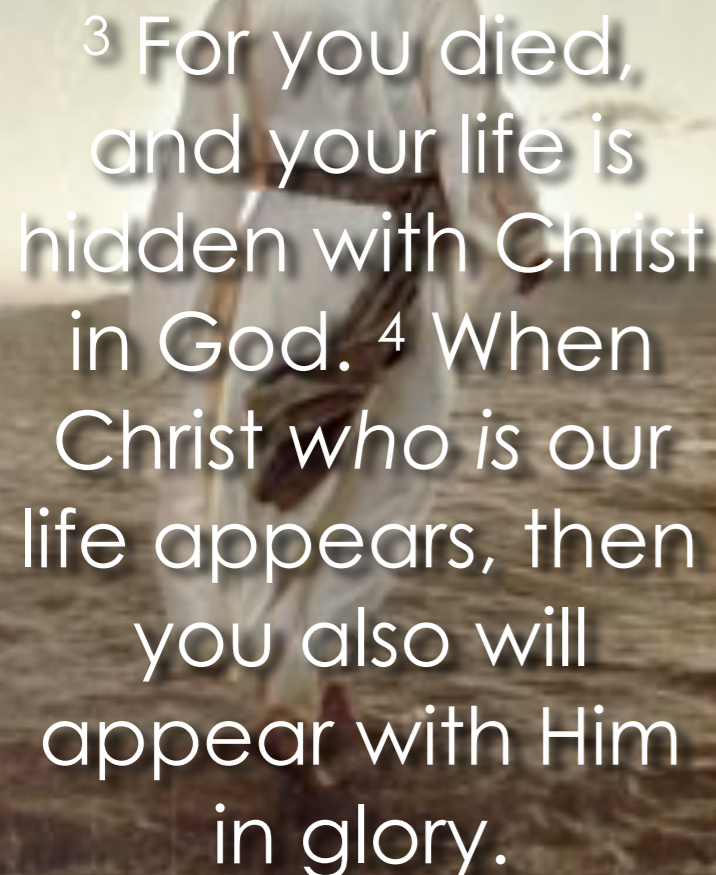
- “**Set**” – denotes: Free Will / choice / ability / duty – (Josh 24:15; Rom 6:16)
- Our thoughts, values & desires must be **Set** upon Spiritual things (Mat 6:19-23; Rom. 12:1,2; Phili. 4:8)
- Cannot serve God & the world – (Mat 6:24; Rom 8:7,8; 1 John 2:15-17)
- What affect will such a focussed mind have on our lives? (Mat 6:25-34; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Phili 3:7-16)

# Living For **HEAVEN** / Keeping **FOCUS**

**Saved To LIVE** *“... When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.. (Colossians 3:4)*

## The JOURNEY Is NOT ALONE ...

### Colossians 3:3–4 (NKJV)



<sup>3</sup> For you died,  
and your life is  
hidden with Christ  
in God. <sup>4</sup> When  
Christ who is our  
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### For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God

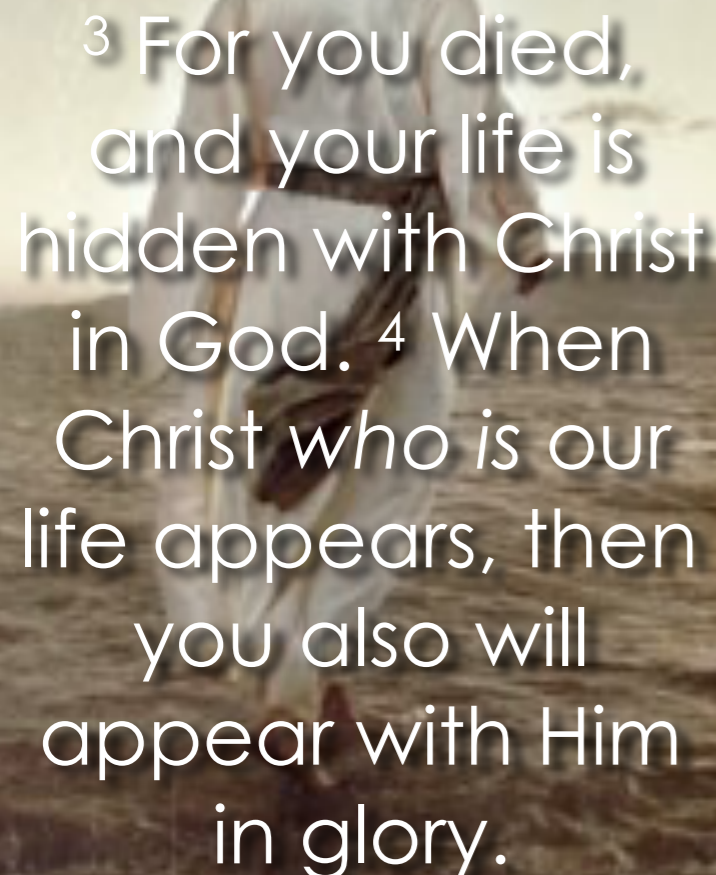
- “For You Died & “Your Life”” – I.E. – died to sin and joined to Christ – (Col. 2:11-13; Romans 6:1-23)
- The Term Hidden Is From The Greek - κρύπτω (kryptō) - - hide, conceal, cover (pass. often hide oneself); keep secret—Barclay Newman: NT Greek-English Dictionary - See “Hid” In - Mat 13:44; 25:18, 25; Heb 11:23

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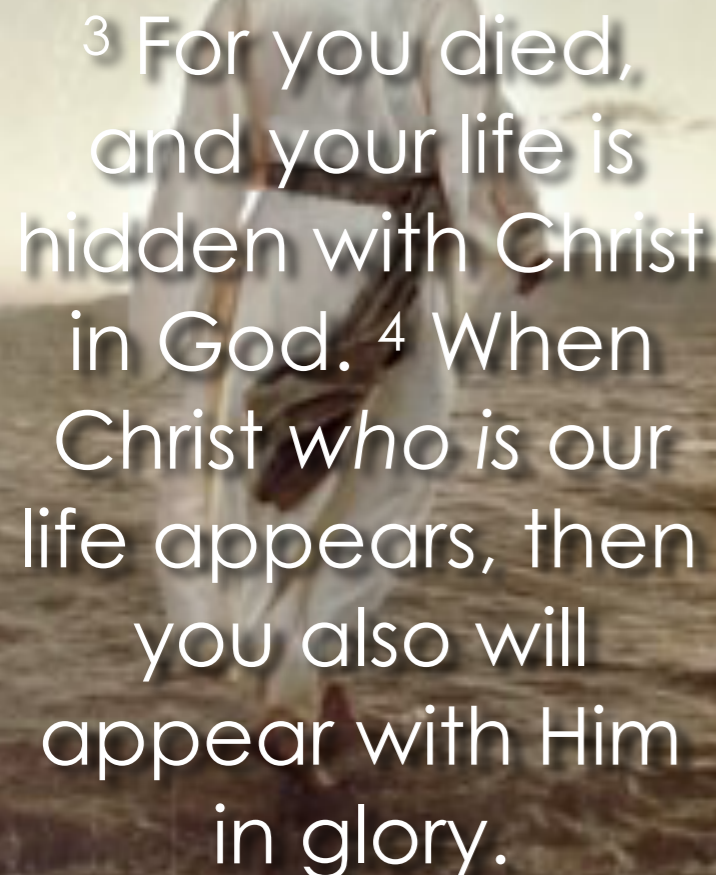
- The FAITHFUL are secure in Christ - (Jn 10:27–29; Rom 8:35–39; 2 Tim 1:12)
- Security does not mean you cannot be lost – “O.S.A.S!” – (Hb 3:12, 10:29)
- As LONG AS WE ABIDE in Christ we are secure - (SECURITY IS IN CHRIST - NOT APART FROM HIM!) – (John 10:27; 15:1-10; 2 Pet 2:20-22; 1 Cor 10:1-13; Rev 2:10; 2 Pet 1:5-11)

# Living For **HEAVEN** / Keeping **FOCUS**

**Saved To LIVE** *“... When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.. (Colossians 3:4)*

## The JOURNEY Is DEMANDING ...

### Colossians 3:3–4 (NKJV)



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and your life is  
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### ► THOSE IN CHRIST ...

- Put **Off** The Old Man (vv. 3:5-9; Eph 4:17-22; 5:1-7)
- Put **On** The New Man (vv. 3:10-17; Eph 4:23,24)
- Focus on the **family** – (vv. 3:18-21; Eph 5:22-6:4; 1 Cor. 7:3-5; 1 Pet 3:1-7)
- Put **God first**, serving Him and seeking to please Him in all of our relationships and interactions with others — (vv. 3:22-4:5; )

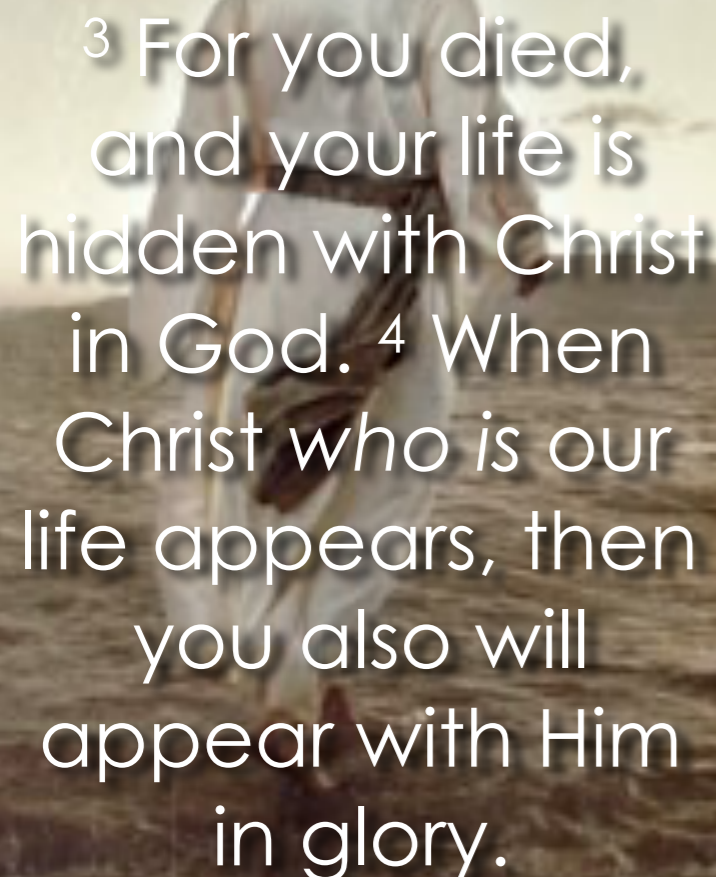
# Living For **HEAVEN** / Keeping **FOCUS**

## The **GOAL**

*“... When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.. (Colossians 3:4)*

## The **JOURNEY** will **END** in **GLORY**

### Colossians 3:3–4 (NKJV)



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### ► **WILL appear with Him in glory ...**

- The Source of Our Current Spiritual Life Is Jesus Christ – (1 John 5:12; John 14:6; Gal 2:20)
- “Shall appear” - In the day when Jesus shall come to judge the world. (Mat 25:31; 1 Tim 6:14; 2 Pet 3:9-14)
- When Jesus Appears – Faithful Christians Will Be Glorified With Him – (Rom 8:17,18; Phil 3:20–21; 2 Thes 1:7-11; 2 Tim 4:8; 1 Pet 5:4; 1 John 3:2)

# Living For **HEAVEN** / Keeping **FOCUS**

## The **GOAL**

*“... When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.. (Colossians 3:4)*

**HEAVEN** / a prepared place for a **PREPARED PEOPLE**



- ▶ Our **values** / focus & loyalties **MUST** be right — Matthew 6:19-34; 7:13,14, 21-27; 25:1-46;
- ▶ Our **commitment, persistence, & determination** **MUST** be given towards serving CHRIST — Philippians 3:7-4:13;
- ▶ Our **FOCUS** **MUST STAY** on CHRIST — Hebrews 12:1-3

## Hebrews 12:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

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## HEAVEN is Where We ALL Want To Be!



- ▶ The whole point of this series is to help us be equipped that we may obtain heaven — Hebrews 10:35-39; 11:13-16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Mat. 25:34,46
- ▶ The journey is NOT EASY — MOST will NOT reach heaven — but we can & will IF we accept the instructions of God, receive the training He gives, and follow the path blazed by Jesus — Mat. 7:13,14; Hebrews 12:1-29

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**HEAVEN** / a prepared place for a **PREPARED PEOPLE**



- ▶ Are You **Seeking** Heavenly Things – (1)
- ▶ Are You **Focusing** On Heavenly Things – (2)
- ▶ Are You **Abiding** Faithfully In Christ – (3)
- ▶ **Will You Appear With Christ In Glory** – (4)



# WALKING IN HIS STEPS

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*Living For*

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**Keeping Our Focus**

**Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 6:19-34; 7:13,14, 21-27; 25:1-46;  
Philippians 3:7-4:1; Hebrews 12:1-3**

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Preached February 17, 2019

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# Hebrews 11:13-16 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. <sup>15</sup> And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> 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.