

JESUS FIRST

Are You The Real Deal?

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

HE HAS RISEN, AS HE SAID!

JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING
EVERYTHING - JESUS = NOTHING

PORTRAIT OF A GENUINE CHRISTIAN

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ **who is your life** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1. Genuine Christianity contains a mystical dimension:
UNION WITH CHRIST

2. Genuine Christianity calls for a heavenly focus:
ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS

- Above is where Christ is
- Above is where Christ is seated

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3. Genuine Christianity offers a secure but obscure identity: HIDDEN WITH CHRIST

4. Genuine Christianity promises future vindication: YOU WILL APPEAR WITH CHRIST!

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

5. Genuine Christianity is not a 'religion' but a consuming relationship: CHRIST IS OUR LIFE!

Responses...

___ Passive unbelief. "I don't really care about all this. It's fine for others, but I'm focused on other things."

___ Active unbelief. "I don't like what I've just heard. It's offensive to me, that Jesus thinks He deserves to be the focus of my whole life. I reject that claim. I'm the master of my life, and I'll live it the way I want."

___ Active belief. "I know it's true. The focus of my life has been on things other than Jesus. There's so much wrong about that, and about me. I see it now. I desperately need to be saved from my sin and self-focus. I am believing that out of love Jesus took my place, paid for my sin, and came alive again. I sense God drawing me to Jesus now and giving me the faith to entrust Him with my whole life. I want Jesus to BE my life." "Lord have mercy on me a sinner."

BIBLE READING PLAN

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Isaiah 57 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: Isaiah 61 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: Isaiah 58 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Isaiah 62 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: Isaiah 59 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Isaiah 63 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: Isaiah 60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Isaiah 64 |