

## Heaven Or Earth?

Romans 8:1-18

## Seek first His kingdom

- 1 John 2:15-17 <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
- Matthew 6:19-33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- Colossians 3:1-5 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
- Romans 8:5-8 the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*
- Galatians 5:16-26 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

## Earthly minded

- Peter – Mathew 16:21-23
- Jews
  - Luke 19:36-40, Matthew 27:27-35, Acts 2:14-37, Acts 1:6
- Simon the Sorcerer – Acts 8:17-24
- Rich man – Luke 12:16-21
- Rich young ruler – Luke 18:18-25
- Church discipline – “I don’t think that’s right”
  - 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

## Earthly minded

- Exodus 15:22-26 – 3 days without water they began to murmur
- Exodus 16:1-8 – Manna, to prove them
- Exodus 17:1-7 – Is the LORD among us, or not?
- Numbers 14:1-4 – Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword?
- Proverbs 26:11 – Like a dog that returns to its vomit Is a fool who repeats his folly.

## Spiritually minded

- Abraham – Hebrews 11
  - 8-10 – he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
  - 23-26 – considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt
- Paul – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 11:-29
- Baptism – 1 Peter 3:21
- Jesus – Luke 22:39-44

## How to take Christ out of Christianity – Article

- I remain unable to will myself into any belief in God or gods (Romans 1:20 – his invisible attributes)
- And though I am without a god, I am not alone. (Matthew 10:33)
- “I’m spiritual, but not religious” (Romans 7:14, 1 Corinthians 3:1, 1 Corinthians 14:37, Ephesians 1:3)
- “I’m kind of agnostic” (Ephesians 3:4-5, Luke 11:23)
- “Now I’m an atheist, but I grew up Catholic” (James 1:25, 2 Peter 2:19-22)
- “I believe in something, but I don’t know if it’s God.” (1 Kings 18:21)
- Polls conducted by the evangelical research firm Barna Group found that young people leave because of factors such as the church’s views on sexuality and science, and its failure to acknowledge “the problems of the real world.” (1 Corinthians 1:25, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 21:34)

## How to take Christ out of Christianity – Article

- Marquette University professor Daniel Maguire, a theologian and former Catholic priest, makes the case in his book “Christianity Without God” for reclaiming the Bible’s epic moral narrative and leaving behind its theistic elements in order to combat neoliberal economics and environmental destruction. “When believers and nonbelievers are working together, the God thing doesn’t matter a bit,” he told me. “It is just a backdrop to the issues in the real world.” Cultural Christianity has already emerged in practice, even before it’s become a self-professed identity.
- Cultural Christianity? – Romans 7:7

## Are we spiritually minded?

What would drive this desire? What was the author’s goal? – Earth.  
Proverbs 26:4-5

### How do you pick a church?

- Cultural Christianity - good moral person?
- Starbucks, daycare - what can I get?
- Proximity
- Heaven

### Selfishness

Dear God, can I win the lottery, get a raise, a promotion, a bigger house or a new car ...

- James 4:1-3 You ask and do not receive ... (Psalms 78:17-21)
- Philippians 2:1-8 regard one another as more important than yourselves ...

## Are we spiritually minded?

A comparison of “wise” views:

- The world – How could God let \_\_ happen?
- Peter – Matthew 16:21-23
- Solomon - Ecclesiastes 4:1-3, Proverbs 26:4-5
- Jesus – Luke 22:42
- God – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Ephesians 3:1-12