

At a recent coffee hour with students in the Regent College atrium, one student asked, "If you were to return to the pastoral ministry, what would you do (meaning, How would you go about it? What would you emphasize?)" My answer was immediate: "No matter how long it might take, I would set about with a single passion to help a local body of believers recapture the New Testament church's understanding of itself as an eschatological community."

Gordon Fee

The church, as has often been said, is a people who live 'between the times.' They are caught up in a tension between the Kingdom of God and a sinful world, between the age to come and the present evil age. The church has experienced the victory of the Kingdom of God; and yet the church is, like other men, at the mercy of the powers of this world. The church is a symbol of hope—a proof that God has forsaken neither this age nor human history to the powers of evil...The church can never be at rest or take her ease but must always be the church in struggle and conflict, often persecuted, but sure of the ultimate victory.

George Eldon Ladd

The union of the believer with Christ in his death means that he or she has also died to the elements of the world (Col. 2:20). This is not an experience but a fact on the basis of which Christians are to live their lives. Since they have died to the world, they are no longer to live as though they were mere worldlings...Christ has been raised and seated in heaven at the right hand of God. He is Lord over the new aeon of redemption. The believer has been raised with Christ, exalted to heaven, and her or his "life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). Again, it should be obvious that this is no subjective experience, it affirms the new sphere in which the believer carries on his or her life.

George Eldon Ladd

Those who understand that the present evil age is fleeting, however, will have a new perspective on all events. They will avoid trying to make earth into heaven. They will not fall prey to overrealized eschatology but will set their hopes on the future, on the consummation of all things, on the day when moral perfection will be theirs. They will not become consumed with roles and stations in this world, even though they will seek to do as much good in this world as possible.

Thomas Schreiner

*A Passion to Live in the Light of Eternity*  
Colossians 3:1-4

**Introduction:** In a quote on the back page, George Ladd writes that the church can no longer live "as though they were mere worldlings." For true followers of Christ, something drastically has changed...we are no longer mere worldlings. While still living on this earth, we belong to a different sphere...a sphere where Christ reigns supreme. As we understand and believe that we belong to a sphere in which Christ reigns, it will change the way we live in the present. Understanding that we are citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20) will change the way we live as citizens on earth.

**Living Like the Future is Now**

**Colossians 3:1-3**

The Future Has Invaded the Present...Through Christ

We Can Experience the Future Now...With Christ

Living Like the Future is Now...Centered on Christ

**Living Like the Future is Not Yet**

**Colossians 3:4**

Looking Forward to the Future...Looking forward to Christ

Living Like the Future is Not Yet...Waiting for Christ

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# Kids Notes

A Passion to Live in the Light of Eternity

## The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

- How do Christians experience the future now?
  - By having an i-phone and lots of gadgets.
  - By living with Jesus as your king now.
  - By travelling in a time-machine into the future.
  - By pretending to be really old.
- What are the "things above" were supposed to seek?
  - Clouds, stars, planets, and other things in the sky.
  - Jesus being king.
  - What Jesus wants for you.
  - Both B and C.
- What is one part of your life where Jesus should not be king?
  - At Church on Sunday.
  - In your room by yourself.
  - At school.
  - Jesus should be king of every part of my life.

For Family Discussion: What would it look like for your family to be citizens of Jesus' kingdom living under Jesus' reign this week?

Space to Doodle (try to draw a king)

## Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

	TOTAL:
FUTURE _____	_____
KING _____	_____
HEDGEHOG _____	_____
CHRIST _____	_____
RAISED _____	_____
ETERNITY _____	_____

## Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

CHRIST ETERNITY FUTURE CROSS REIGN KING ABOVE BELOW  
 EARTH CITIZEN TRANSFORMED COMMUNITY CROWN THRONE  
 ESCHATOLOGICAL COLOSSIANS KINGDOM CHURCH

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N J D E M R O F S N A R T Q U
L H T Y A O T S I R H C E Z C
A C H C Q M B A C I E A R T H
C R R I N B S B Q A W M D U Y
I U O N U A C O K G S D P D Y
G H N C G M K V Z N Z D L L T
O C E R L I T E A I D D A G I
L Z W O E V E I H K Y G X X N
O R N S D G S R R Z T M O N U
T M T S Y S E M H M I O K W M
A D C L O N W O R C N D F U M
H X E L X A L G C P R G L M O
C B O X H C I T I Z E N J K C
S C U Q M W O L E B T I N I U
E P X E R U T U F J E K Z P E
  
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