

# A BEGINNING

NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST | AN INSPIRING LOOK AT COLOSSIANS

## **Four Places We Find Life**

“You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus:  
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”  
*Acts 20:35b*

### **1. Eternal life**

Receiving: It is life-giving to us to get eternal life.

Giving: We also experience life from sharing the Good News with others.

### **2. Relationship with God**

Receiving: It gives us life to be loved by God.

Giving: It brings us life to love God.

### **3. Relationship with others**

Receiving: It gives us life when others love us.

Giving: It brings us life when we love others.

### **4. A new way of life / Living in the kingdom**

Receiving: We get life by following Jesus’ new way of life for us.

Giving: We also find life when we help others discover God’s life-giving ways.

## **Eternal life – A Beginning**

### **Getting eternal life is a huge part of the life God offers.**

- Colossians 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, <sup>14</sup> who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.
- John 3:14-16 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. NLT
- 1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this eternal life. NLT

## **Eternal life is a beginning. It is a seed that grows and brings more life.**

Colossians 1:6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

Colossians 1:10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

Colossians 2:7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:19 They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

All of the life we find in God starts with the gospel. The gospel is not just the get-out-of-jail-free card or the ticket to eternal life. Rather, it is a beginning point—a new connection with God—a seed that grows—bearing fruit and growing our faith (1:6, 2:7), love for others (1:6), deeds (1:10), and knowledge of God (1:10)—even spreading (growing) throughout the world (1:6). The church family also grows together (2:19), building one another in love. The gospel is absolutely not an ending point. It is a beginning point.

## **Eternal life is far more than the afterlife.**

- **Hope**
- **Heart of God**
- **Transformation**
- **Expanded view of the good news**
- **Goal to pursue**

Philippians 3:12-14 But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear friends, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race. TLB