

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

October 18, 2018

My dear Friends:

One of my favorite places in our church facility is in my pastor's suite area. If you haven't been up to my offices, I have a main office and a back study—but between those two rooms is a conference room with a sitting area. The center piece of the space is this amazing arched window that looks like the sun showering its rays outward.

And yet, the window itself—as beautiful as it is—is not the main thing. This is: I love to sit in one particular chair (I'm actually doing this right now as I write to you today) and look out the window toward the west. From this seat, over the trees, I can see the church's steeple rising, silhouetted against the deep blue sky. There are just a few puffy clouds wafting by, a slight breeze moving the leaves below. It is simply a breathtaking view.

I love this view for so many reasons. But today, I love it because that simple steeple, pointing to the heavens, beckons to me, "Lift up your heart!/I lift my heart to you, O God!" It also reminds me of John Calvin's instruction concerning the Lord's Supper; part of what happens in that meal is the Spirit lifts our hearts to the heavenly places where Christ is seated at the Father's right hand so that we feast upon his presence and his benefits for us.

Of course, we were meant for heaven—that's where our life is, after all. The Apostle Paul wrote, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Col 3:1-4). All too often, my eyes, mind, heart is focused on things down here; I don't lift up my eyes or my heart.

And yet, on a beautiful fall day like today, staring out this beautiful window to the steeple that points to the skies, I am reminded: You were made for more than this. Lift up your heart!

In the grip of God's grace,



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