

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

SCRIPTURE READING:

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. ²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: ²⁴ Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you (Philippians 1:21-24).

INTRODUCTION:

A. Life = Christ; Death = Gain

Philippians 1:21 reveals Paul's philosophy of life. He did not live for wealth, fame, or pleasure. He committed his life to loving, worshipping, and serving God. He wanted to pattern his life after the life of Christ. He wants Christ to live out His life in him. To die is to be with Christ and to be like Him forever. Paul realized that the Believer's commitment in life and death is Jesus Christ.

B. Dwight L Moody Quote About Death

Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal-a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body (Dwight L. Moody).

I. What is Life?

Life is the existence and being of a person. It is to be alive and the opposite of death.

II. Where Does Life Come From?

God is the Creator of life.

A. God created Man and Woman.

- “⁷ And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. ¹⁸ And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Gen 2:7, 18).

- “²¹ And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²² And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man” (Gen 2:21-23).

B. “¹This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; ²**Male and female created he them**; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created” (Gen 5:1-2).

C. “**Thou hast granted me life** and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit” (Job 10:12).

- D. “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before **the Lord our maker**” (Ps 95:6).
- E. “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, **the Creator** of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding” (Isa 40:28).
- F. “But from the beginning of the creation **God made them male and female**” (Mark 10:6).

III. **What is the Meaning of Life?**

- A. To know God because He is the Author of Life (John 17:3).
- B. To seek the Kingdom of God (Matt 6:33; Luke 12:31).
- C. To seek to Glorify God in “whatsoever ye do” (1 Cor 10:31).
- D. To praise and honor the Creator (Rev 4:11)/
- E. To worship the Lord (Exod 20:3; Matt 4:10; 1 John 5:21).
- F. To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ – Introducing others to the Savior (Mark 2:1-12; Rom 1:16; 1 Pet 3:15).

- **Every Moment Matters**

When Randy Kilgore met Ada, she had outlived her entire group of friends and family and was living in a nursing home. “It’s the hardest part of getting old,” she told him, “watching everyone else move on and leave you behind.” One day he asked Ada what kept her interest and how she spent her time. She answered him with a Scripture passage from the apostle Paul (Philippians 1:21): “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Then she said, “While I’m still around, I have work to do. On my good days, I get to talk to the people here about Jesus; on the hard days, I can still pray.”

Significantly, Paul wrote Philippians while in prison. And he acknowledged a reality many Christians understand as they face their mortality: Even though heaven seems so inviting, the time we have left on Earth matters to God.

Like Paul, Ada recognized that every breath she took was an opportunity to serve and glorify God. So Ada spent her days loving others and introducing them to her Savior.

Even in our darkest moments, Christians can hold on to the promise of permanent joy in the company of God. And while we live, we enjoy relationship with Him. He fills all our moments with significance (Randy Kilgore).

IV. **How Long is Life?**

A. **Our Earthly Life is Temporal**

1. **Life is short** – like a **passing shadow** (Ps 144:4).
2. **Life is like a vapor** - (James 4:13-17).
3. **Life is like the grass that withers and the flower that falls** (1 Pet 1:24).
4. **Life is like a wind that passes and comes not again** (Ps 78:39).

- **Billy Graham Trivia**

Question: What is Life's greatest surprise?

Answer: The Brevity of it.

According to Graham, "Time moves so quickly, and no matter who we are or what we have done, the time will come when our lives will be over."

B. Our Earthly Life is Uncertain

1. David said, "there is but a step between me and death" (1 Sam 20:3).
2. We cannot predict the future. Tomorrow is not promised to us.
 - "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Prov 27:1).
 - "¹³ Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:13-14).
3. The parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)
 - It is not a sin to plan our lives, but it is a sin to plan our lives without God.

C. Eternal Life is Forever and Certain

1. "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have **eternal life**" (John 3:15).
2. "He that believeth on the Son hath **everlasting life**: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).
3. "In hope of **eternal life**, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).
4. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have **eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).
5. "²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And **whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die**. Believest thou this? (John 11:25-26).

V. How Can Life be Lived?

A. However, we want to – Disregard for God and His Word.

B. According to the Word of God – He has a plan that we can accept or reject.

1. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever** believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

2. “Who will have **all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4).
3. “⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph 2:8-10).

Study Questions:

1. As a Christian, do you **live** as though you truly believe that to live is Christ?
2. Do you truly believe that to die is gain?
3. Are you ready to meet the Lord?

CONCLUSION:

A. Ready for Life or Death

A lady once said to John Wesley, "Suppose you knew you were to die at 12 o'clock tomorrow night, how would you employ the intervening time?" "Why, just as I intend to spend it now. I would preach this evening at Gloucester, and again at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning. After that I should ride to Tewkesbury, preach in the afternoon, meet the Societies in the evening. Then repair to friend Martin's, who expects to entertain me, converse, and pray with the family as usual, retire to my room at 10 o'clock, commend myself to my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in glory!"

B. The ABC's of Salvation

- **A**dmit That You Are A Sinner. “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Rom 3:23)
- **B**elieve On Christ. “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved*” (Acts 16:31).
- **C**onfess Your Faith. “*If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation*” (Rom 10:9-10).

MEMORY VERSE:

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son” (1 John 5:11).

From the Teaching Ministry of:
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“the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).