

## LIFE

Greetings precious people, over the next few weeks we are going to look at the very important subject of "Life". There are many aspects to this subject of life such as: the purpose of life; life after death; eternal life; life with meaning; to name just a few. Today I would like for us to consider an aspect of life which Jesus referred to as the "abundant life".

In John 10:7-10 we read, "Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

There are two important truths I want you to see from the above verses. First, there is mention made of all those that had come before (Jesus), this includes all the false prophets and teachers; man made religions; even Satan himself who made promises of a great life if man would just listen to his advice and follow him in Genesis 3. (This is true of the present day false teachers and religions also.)

The Word of God, the Bible warns of this in 2 Peter 2:18-19, "For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage."

It is not just Satan and the false teachers that make such promises, the world, the Madison Ave. mentality that would have us believe if we just had a certain look; lived in a certain area; wore the latest style; drank the latest craze of drink; etc.. Our life would be full and wonderful.

Michael Jackson, Brittany Spears, Harrison Ford and countless others have believed these lies and are miserable. All of what the world can offer can at best only bring a temporary moment of pleasure and then a life of misery ending in death. The tragic thing is that most continue to believe this lie and are in hot pursuit after it.

Jesus not only makes the claim of giving abundant life but delivers it as well. It must be understood that the "abundant life" that Jesus speaks of is not one that is centered on physical sensual desires being satisfied nor is it realized through the satisfying of one's lustful desires. Ironically it comes as one denies and dies to the carnal fleshly lusts of "self" and gives oneself completely without reservation to the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is not "pie in the sky when we die" rather an abundant full complete life now as well as Heaven when we die. In 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 the Apostle Paul writes, "But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God."

This is not speaking of something only to be experienced in Heaven but now! The abundant life that Jesus speaks of consists of but not limited to: joy unspeakable and full of glory; peace that surpasses all understanding; mercy; grace; a depth of love that the human mind can not understand and much more.

All of these are not as a result of a life of not problems, trials, heart ache and sufferings rather they come in the midst of these. Jesus never promises a problem, trial, suffering free life but He does promise to be with us always even to the end of the age.

How would you describe the life that you have presently? Are you chasing after the fleeting pleasures of this life or surrendered to Jesus Christ?

Drew Macintyre is associate pastor of Calvary Chapel of Alpine and can be reached at 619-445-2589, or [ccalpine@juno.com](mailto:ccalpine@juno.com)