

LIFE (part 3)

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to conclude our study of the very important subject of "Life". This time our focus will be on Eternal Life. In previous weeks we have looked at "The purpose of Life" and "The abundant Life".

The Word of God the Bible tells us that God made man and made him after His own image. Sin has marred that image yet like God man remains an eternal being. Therefore man, the soul of man which is the real you, (the physical body is just a temporary dwelling place for your soul) will last for all eternity. The grand question is: where will you spend eternity.

The Bible makes clear that there is only one of two places, Heaven or Hell. It is vital to understand that nothing has to be done to spend eternity in Hell, just keep living in rebellion against God. Heaven is only possible through repentance and trusting in the finished work of Christ on the Cross for payment of your sin. Heaven is also known as eternal life where Hell is referred to as eternal death.

Eternal life is possible only through Jesus Christ. He said of Himself in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes unto the Father except through me." It is also said of Christ in 1 John 5:11-13, "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."

Here is the thing that is strange to many; Eternal life could only come through the death of Christ upon the Cross of Calvary. It took the death of the Son of God who knew no sin to give man eternal life that was condemned to eternal death because of sin. Life could not come without death.

God spoke this many times through the sacrifices under the Old Testament economy. It began in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve's sin. An innocent animal needed to be slain in order to provide a covering for their sin.

Jesus illustrated the need for death to come in order for life to be brought forth as He said in John 12:24, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." A seed will not bear any fruit until it first fall to the ground and die to its natural form in order to become that which it is genetically engineered by its Creator to do.

To further illustrate the personal application of this for you and me, Jesus went on to say in John 12:25-26, "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

For any to be a follower of Jesus Christ it calls for death to the self life, that life that is characterized by seeking "my" will to be done; have things go "my"; a self consumed, self centered life. This characterizes all of mankind; it is part of our nature, fallen nature.

This dying to self is also how the abundant life and the purpose of life are realized. As long as "self" is on the throne of our life, dictating what course we are to take and life to live life as Jesus promised will evade us.

As with the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to itself thus bringing forth much fruit so with the follower of Jesus Christ, as I die to the self life the Spirit of God is able to bring forth “good fruit” from my life. Fruit that is both pleasing to God and a blessing to others.

I do hope that you desire this life for yourself and others instead of the rotten fruit that a self centered life bears.

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