

**What Is Life  
All About?**

# Life

- “Ever notice that when you reach a certain age, everything you have seems to wear out, spread out, or fall out.”
  - Why are we here?...
  - Where are we from?...
  - Where are we going?

# Word...Life...Light...God

- Jn.1:4
  - From all eternity, life resided in the Word
  - Life: light of men, therefore spiritual life
  - Spiritual life is fellowship with God
- Jn.17<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

# Abundant Life

- Jn.10<sup>10</sup> 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.
  - Abundant life: profuse, superfluous, unnecessary, life to the full.
- Suggests fat, contented, flourishing sheep [pasture offers more nourishment than sheep can use].
  - ‘This is living!’ Ro.3:1

# Abundant Life

- Jn.1<sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace
- Jn.6<sup>12</sup> So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.”  
<sup>13</sup> Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

# Abundant Life

- Ep. 1<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
- Those who ignore God's provisions only cheat themselves

“Life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating”

– O. Henry

# I. How Should We Not Live?

# NOT for abundant possessions

- Lk.12<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”
  - Take heed: guard; take appropriate action to ward off a foe.
  - Even as Jesus preached, some were preoccupied with worldly goods (v.13).

Many surrender treasures for trinkets

# NOT entangled in temporal distractions

- 2 Tim.2<sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
  - Of sheep whose wool is caught in thorns; to be involved in an activity to point of interference with another objective.
- 2 Pt.2<sup>20</sup>
  - “Didn’t Paul make tents?”

# NOT in trivial pursuit

- Ja.4<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”
  - Obsession with worldly goods, profits, earthly success...crowds God out.
  - Greed is not happy here or hereafter.
  - House fire... [2 Pt.3:11]

# NOT in pride of life

- 1 Jn.2<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world
- Arrogance based on outward circumstances (wealth, talent, rank, etc.).
- Pyrrhic victory

# NOT mere survival vs spiritual triumph

- Rv.2<sup>10</sup> Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life
  - 13, Antipas, My faithful martyr
  - Contrast: Demas and Paul

# Typical Lifespan

<b>Sleep</b>	23 years	32.9%
<b>Work</b>	16 years	22.8%
<b>TV</b>	8 years	11.4%
<b>Eating</b>	6 years	8.6%
<b>Travel</b>	6 years	8.6%
<b>Leisure</b>	4.5 years	6.5%
<b>Illness</b>	4 years	5.7%
<b>Dressing</b>	2 years	2.8%
<b>Religion</b>	0.5 years	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	70 years	100%

## II. How Should We Live?

# 1. By every word of God

- Mt.4<sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
- No amount of bread will keep us alive without a word from God's mouth.
  - **Every**: excludes selective obedience. Lk.1:38; 5:4-5
  - **Word**: excludes feelings / subjective experience. Jn.6:44-45
  - **God**: excludes self-exaltation. Jer.10:23

## 2. By faith

- Gal.2<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- No longer I: self-denial. Mt.16:24-26
- Christ lives in me: total commitment
- Now...in faith: means of self-denial and commitment. Gn.6 / Gn.12 / Dn.3
  - Prosperity without faith: no joy

### 3. By teaching / training

- 2 Th.2<sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
- Context:
  1. Error was spreading (2-3)
  2. Driven by satanic deception (3,7,9)
  3. Some prefer error to truth (10)

### 3. By teaching / training

- 2 Th.2<sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
- **Therefore:** conclusion drawn from what he just said –
  - a. 14 – blessed assurance
  - b. 15 – bountiful acceptance

### 3. **By teaching / training**

- 2 Th.2<sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, **stand fast** and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
- **Stand firm:** opposite of . . .
  - a. Running away in fear (Demas?)
  - b. Opposite of being shaken (v.2)

Standing firm requires firm conviction  
(1 Th.3:8; 2 Th.2:1). 1 Co.16:13

### 3. By teaching / training

- 2 Th.2<sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
- Hold traditions = [what is handed down; teachings, commands... Synonym: gospel (2:14; 1 Th.5:27).
  - Not “you are saved; now you may be careless and secure”
  - Not *human* tradition – Mk.7:5, 8-9; Col.2:8

### 3. By teaching / training

- 2 Th.2<sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
- **Hold traditions** = hold fast what **we** handed down to you...
  - By **spoken** word . . . by **letter** (same level; two forms, one substance)
  - Puts **us** on same level as original hearers. 1 Co.14:37; 1 Th.5:27
    - Dn.5, written, then spoken
    - Ac.15, spoken, then written (23-29)

## 4. In hope

- 2 Th.2<sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace
- **Prayer after admonition** –
  - 17: **comfort / establish** – singular verbs from double subject: Son and Father
  - How? Not with **empty** hope, 1 Th.4:13
  - Good hope (= blessed hope, Tit.2:13)
  - By grace (God loves, chooses, keeps)