

Life (What is it?)

Have you ever after a long day just sat down and wondered is this all there is to life, there has got to be more than this, what am I missing?

Solomon pondered this same question all through the book of Ecclesiastes. He asks the same questions:

Ecc 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

Ecc 1:3 What is the profit to a man in all his labor which he labors under the sun?

Ecc 1:4 A generation passes away, and a generation comes; but the earth remains forever.

Ecc 1:5 The sun also arises, and the sun goes down, and hurries to its place where it arose.

Ecc 1:6 The wind goes toward the south, and it turns around to the north; it whirls around continually; and the wind returns on its circuits.

Ecc 1:7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; to the place from where the rivers come, there they return again.

Ecc 1:8 All things are full of labor; man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecc 1:9 That which has been is that which shall be; and that which has been done is that which shall be done; and there is nothing new under the sun.

But the question still remains, What is Life? And is this all there is?

What is life?
Is this all there is?

Christ said this:

Joh 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to

destroy. I have come so that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

What is Life?

What does he mean when he says Life more abundantly?

According to most scholars:

Life is the culmination of all ones experiences over a period of ones time on earth, and how they react to each experience.

No two people are alike therefore no two people can have the same life. Even if they experience the same things growing up they will undoubtedly react differently to each situation therefore each creating a different life for themselves.

We have all heard stories of two kids growing up in the projects one becomes a drug dealer or a thief or a gang member the other finds away to break out of the situation he (or She) is in and makes a different life for themselves.

How we view our lives determines the quality of the life we live.

If we view it as a waste it therefore becomes a self fulfilling prophecy and a waste. Conversely if we view it as successful and fulfilling it therefore becomes just that.

Perception of a thing is everything.

Christ said this said this:

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me.

Christ not only came to bring us Life but the truth, the truth not only of God but ourselves as well. He said here that He is truth and life to those who believe.

Se also said this:

Joh 8:31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who believed on Him, If you continue in My Word, you are My disciples indeed.

Joh 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The question that you may be asking yourself at this point (the same question I ask myself), but why do I feel that there has to be more? That this can't be all there is to life. I know what Christ said but it just doesn't seem that way to me.

Man has been contemplating these very questions from the beginning of time. Great thinkers such as Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Buddha and Confucius have all asked these questions;

Why am I here?

What is Life?

Is there more?

The problem with these questions is that they are all inclusive and the answers vary from person to person. No one answer can apply to everyone who asks since each one of us is different.

I find myself often wondering if there is anything else besides eat, sleep, work repeat. You see I work a lot, researching subjects for one sermon or another, burning discs for evangelist work, working at my job outside the church. It takes almost all of my time. I take an occasional TV break to watch one movie or another but work whether it is in the church or at my job takes the bulk of my time.

I don't get out much except to church where I sing or video or preach the rest of my time is spent either at work or in my home office.

There are times I sit and ask myself is this all to life? There has got to be more than this right?

So what is the answer?

In order to determine what Christ meant when he said the he will give us life and life more abundantly, we first have to look at the first part of that verse, **The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy.**

How does he do this?

By making us believe a lie. This lie has caused many thousands to stumble fall and end what we call life altogether.

What is this lie you ask? It's just this that Fame, Fortune or Success will bring you happiness and a satisfying, fulfilling life.

There are 3 problems with this lie:

The 1st problem with this lie is that for a season it is true,(it wouldn't be much of a lie if it wasn't). For a time when a person receives that fame or fortune or even success they are living the dream. They feel that they are on top of the world and that life couldn't get any better. But the problem with these things are that they are only temporary, they don't last Fame only lasts until the next big name come along, Fortune can be taken away or lost depending on how you are with money, and Success last as long as you can keep coming up with relatively new ideas to keep your success alive.

What then? What happens when the money runs out or you no longer are that superstar, or your success starts to dwindle what then?

The 2nd problem with this lie is that in some cases we get board with the money or fame or success. We miss the struggle that brought us to this point, the initial high (if you will) we got when we first received what we wanted. We all have good intentions when things like fortune or success find us but then we start looking for something to take the place of that initial high we first felt and that could lead us down the road to drugs, or alcohol or other tings that can and will eventually destroy our lives in the end.

The 3rd problem that can happen is that those things that we seek so desperately start to change us from who we were when we first found this thing to someone totally different. It starts to change our character. We go from that person who has some modesty to someone who is high-minded and in some cases truly arrogant. People change in how they relate to others including Family and spouses.(how many times have we heard about a person hitting it big and then after a short period of time divorces his wife or husband of many years for someone younger better looking better for their new image) They get to the point that they will do anything to keep what they have regardless of what it may do to those around them. They lose sight of why they wanted these things in the first place.

When these things happen that's when Satan has destroyed those lives that he has touched.

Another problem that we have is:

Sometimes we allow life to get a little lopsided. We go a little overboard on one thing or another, as in my case it's work. For others it may be TV, cleaning, family, and kids.... ECT.
We have to learn how to find balance in our lives.

Paul says it this way:

Php 4:5 Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Another well known quote whose authorship is in question says it this way:

All things in moderation nothing in excess

The answer is this, That only through Christ can we know ourselves and find the truth about what it is that we need to find that life we are seeking.

For each one of us the answer is going to be different but ultimately the same.

Christ said that I am the truth and the life, and that he came to give us that life more abundantly. Only through Him can we find that balance, moderation and contentment that is needed to give us that quality well rounded life that will bring us satisfaction that we are seeking.

But it is up to each and every one of us to first seek it then apply those things that God shows us,

Remember what James says:

Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and with no reproach, and it shall be given to him.

To find a truly fulfilling and abundant life you must at the end of the day when no one is around ask yourself these 3 questions:

1. Are you content with the person that you are?
2. Are you at peace with the way you acted towards those around you today?
3. Are you satisfied with whom you have become to get what you have always wanted?

If you answered no to any of these questions Christ has the answer for you today

Christ offers an alternative to these things. Whether we are rich or poor, famous or no one even knows our name, to Christ it doesn't matter who you are. He calls to everyone regardless of status or wealth.

He says this:

Mat 11:28 Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls.

Mat 11:30 For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Also:

Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

In the end Solomon came up with this conclusion:

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this is the whole duty of man.

Ecc 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good, or whether evil.

In Conclusion I leave you with these two verses:

Heb 13:5 Let your way of life be without the love of money, and be content with such things as you have, for He has said, "Not at all will I leave you, not at all will I forsake you, never!"

Php 4:8 Finally, my brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are right, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue and if there is any praise, think on these things.