Are You Living or Simply Existing?
Getting the Most out of this Life
5/7/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture: John 10:9-10, 5:19; Hebrews 5:7; Matthew 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Introduction

- Last week we talked about Determining Your Life's Priorities.
- We were able to see that if we put our relationship with God first, that everything else in life falls into place.
- Everything we are striving for in this life should be centered on God's plan for us.
- Trying to go through life without putting God first is like chasing after the wind, it's meaningless.
- So, that brings us to our topic today, **Are You Living or Simply Existing?**
- There are so many people that wake up each day and go through the motions of this life.
- Their days are filled with routines that simply seek to satisfy the requirements of living.
- Everyone can simply exist in this life, but whether you actually live, is the real question.
- As Christians are we called to just exist, or are we called to something different?

John 10:9-10

[9]I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. [10]The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- Now when most people read v.10 they immediately begin to think worldly.
- They begin to fantasize about what it means to have life "to the full."
- They begin to have thoughts of large houses, fancy cars, expensive jewelry, and other lavish possessions.
- Some may not think only in material ways, but they may think it means to get the most joy out of life.
- **It is never a good idea to allow your thoughts to mold the Bible, the Bible should mold your thoughts.**
- Jesus is not speaking in terms of material possessions or enjoyment, he is speaking of something deeper.
- In v.9 Jesus has just explained that anyone who enters through him will be saved.
- Every person on earth has life, but not everyone has it "to the full" as Jesus mentions.
- He is speaking of eternal life here.
- The promise that Jesus is making us in this verse begins the moment that we accept him as our Savior.
- Having the promise of eternal life, gives us the opportunity to life our earthly lives to the full as well.
- How can we do that?

I. We Must Live with a total Dependence on God.

John 5:19

[19]Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."

Hebrews 5:7

[7]During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

- Jesus lived a life that modeled for us total dependence on the Father.
- Many times throughout the Scriptures we see Jesus praying to the Father.
- Are we trying to be "independent" in our spiritual life?
- We need to realize that if Jesus couldn't fulfill his Father's plan without being dependent upon Him for his strength, then neither can we.
- If you want to know how to stand tall in this life, you must first learn how to bow down before God.
- As we said last Sunday, everything we do in this life should have God at the center of it.

II. We Must Live with a Sense of Divine Purpose

Matthew 16:25-26

[25]For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. [26]What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

- As Christians we are called to live for God, not for this world.
- Every single one of us has a divine purpose that we were created to fulfill.
- God has given each of us spiritual gifts to be used to bring Him glory and honor and to further His kingdom.
- Too often we live this life as if we only have an earthly purpose, but is that fulfilling?
- Doesn't it get tiring chasing after the wind?
- You will start living this life to the fullest when you begin to live out your divine purpose.
- If you are wondering what that purpose is, you will have to stop long enough to really seek God's answer.
- It is unlikely that you will hear from God, while you are running from one earthly task to the other.
- This life only makes sense if we have a divine purpose.
- What does the length of time here on earth really mean, if that is all that we have to look forward to?
- When Christ promised that we would have life "to the full" this is what he was meaning.
- Our eternal life, should put everything in this earthly life into perspective.

III. We Must Live with a Desire to Glorify God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

[31]So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

- This also ties into what we spoke about last week.
- The question last week was, what are you striving for?
- Here we can ask, who are you striving to glorify? Yourself? Someone else? God?
- You might have answered this morning that you are striving to glorify God, but what do your actions show?
- See if we are really living with a desire to glorify God, then whatever we did in this life would all be to glorify God Almighty.
- You can glorify God through your work, how you speak, how you spend your time and money…
- If you have the "desire" you will find the proper actions to take.
- The more time you spend in this life glorifying God, the more you will find that you are living this life to the fullest.

- If you will submit to living this life being Dependent on God, Living with a Sense of Divine Purpose and a Desire to Glorify Him, you will find the abundance of life Jesus was speaking of.
- Living for ourselves is only satisfying for a moment, living for God is satisfying for eternity.
- The more you spend time Praying, Reading the Bible, and Surrounding yourself with Godly people, the more you will see yourself maturing in your faith.
- The more you grow in your spiritual life, the more you will begin to get out of your earthly life, guaranteed.
- **So, do you want to live, or simply exist?**

Tonight's Bible Study

The Book of Colossians – Colossians 3:5-11

Wednesday Night Bible Study:

Matthew 12:40: How do you get 3 days and 3 nights from Friday to Sunday morning?