

Is Life Worth Living?

By Jesse Moser

Ecclesiastes 12:7:

7 Then the Dust will return to the earth as it was,
And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

How many times have you thought about your death? We might think how, when, and where is it going to happen. But what happens after we die? Some might think we are reincarnated. Others think there is nothing, we are just dead. As Christians we know there is a God who is ruler and judge of all. We know that one of two things will happen: we will either die and our spirit will go back to God, or Christ will come again and our spirits will go back to God. In either scenario it ends the same way, with God as the final judge. Let us look and see if life is worth living and what consequences our actions will bring in the end.

Ecclesiastes tells us life is worth living: "Rejoice, O young men, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth" (Ecc. 11:9). We are to live our lives as we see fit. We were given free will from God because of His love, "Walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes" (Ecc. 11:9). God has given us the ability to do what we want with our lives. We can choose our jobs, our spouses, and hobbies. If we want to live our lives writing books or cooking, we have that opportunity. Our free will is one of the greatest gifts from God. With it we are able to choose our life and its purpose, but there is a catch. With free will comes responsibility and a choice. What is that choice? We are faced with the ultimate choice - good or evil. Choosing God is good

and rebelling is evil as we are reminded by Joshua, "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Joshua is telling the people, after conquering the promised land and removing idolatry from the land, they need to choose for themselves whom they will serve. We are all faced with this same decision, and we will be judged for it, "But know that for all these God will bring you into judgement" (Ecc. 11:9). Solomon tells us here we have consequences for our choices and actions. In the end we will be judged for what we do in this life. We might have the free will to choose, but we must be prepared for the judgment that awaits us in the end. So is life worth living? It is IF we choose to do right. Even then we need to remember, "The dust will return to the earth as it was" (Ecc. 12:7). We must not get so caught up in material things that we forget we belong to God, for "...the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Ecc. 12:7). We have seen that we can make life worth living, now let us examine what our actions mean.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-6, Solomon urges us to remember God while we go about our daily lives. We must never forget the end of all things will come, and after this the judgement. One option for our lives is to do whatever we want, no matter what happens to anyone or what laws are broken. This choice has led to disaster from the beginning "As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death" (Proverbs 11:19). Doing evil leads to death. What about doing good, where will this lead

us? We see that Joshua chose to follow God, “The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil” (Proverbs 19:23). Joshua knew choosing the Lord meant choosing life. We also have this assurance in Christ, “Jesus said to him, “ I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

As Christians we have confidence in Christ and the life He offers us if we choose to follow Him. We can choose good because we know God is faithful, “Therefore know that the Lord your God,

He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenants and mercy for a thousand generations with this who love Him and keep His commandments” (Duet. 7:9). In the end, God will judge and our actions evidenced against us. So is life worth living? Yes it is! If we choose Him and keep His commandments we are assured eternal life, which gives us a reason to live.

All scripture is from the NKJV.

Rich in Good Works

By Glen Elliott

There are many dangers associated with the pursuit of wealth. Solomon, arguably the richest monarch to ever rule over an earthly kingdom, warns of the danger posed by wealth in the book of Proverbs.

“He who trusts in riches will fall...” (11:28).

“Riches are not forever...” (27:24).

“Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it” (23:4).

“He who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished” (28:20).

Pursing spiritual riches is a different matter altogether. Timothy was told to “Instruct those who are rich in this world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” Then, he adds: “Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed” (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

Two words that seem to flow together in the Bible are the words *good* and *works*. Jesus says, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Mt. 5:16). Again, in Ephesians 2:10, we read: “For we are His

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

God calls His people to good works. Every new day is another opportunity to be involved in good works. A life marked by good works is practical evidence that we understand and appreciate the death of Jesus for us on the cross. Paul explains that Jesus “gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds” (Tit. 2:14). Christ redeemed us for good works.

The most famous rich man of all time is not even called by name. He is simply referred to as “a certain rich man.” We do not know how much money he possessed, only that he “habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day” (Lk. 16:19). The Bible says that, living at his gate, was a certain poor man by the name of Lazarus. Lazarus was a beggar whose body was covered with open sores. He was so utterly helpless that he could not even stop the dogs from licking his wounds. In spite of his daily opportunity to help, the rich man made no effort to come to this man’s aid. But, after he died, the rich man “lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom” (Lk. 16:23). Opportunities neglected today become tomorrow’s regrets. It is one thing to die rich, it is quite another thing to die rich in good works.

Upcoming Events

Sat. Oct. 2—Work Day for men and women starting at 8am to prepare for our gospel meeting. A sign up sheet/ list of items needed is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Oct. 3—Monthly potluck luncheon with a 1pm service.

Oct. 4—Teens Bible Basics meeting @ 6:30pm at the Scherffius home.

Oct. 7—Teens: Take Away Thursday @6:30pm

Oct. 10—Youth Devo at the Jobes' home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Oct. 17-20 Midtown will be hosting our Fall Gospel meeting with Mike Bonner. Please make plans to attend and bring a friend. Flyers are in the foyer. There will be a potluck luncheon on Oct. 17 after the morning worship and we will have a 1 pm service in lieu of the 5pm.

Area Events

Sept. 26-29—Gospel Meeting at Portland c of C.

Oct. 9, 2021-Mathis church of Christ Ladies' Day. Speakers include Emily Cammock and Athena Scherffius. More information is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

Janet Hicks (James Hicks mother) is in the hospital in Georgia. She recently had heart surgery and is expected to have a second. She is not doing well.

Ben Moseley, who has COVID.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Scott DeDear, Ken and Sandra Marie, Mike McVey, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson, Charlie Mabe, Sandy Malone.

Service Roster

Week of September 26, 2021

Sunday Morning

Announcements..... Doug Jobes
Scripture Reading..... Isaac Jobes
Song Leader Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford
Closing Prayer..... Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... James Cammock
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... Bryant Siegel
Assist..... Doug Jobes
Assist..... Isaac Jobes
Assist..... Fred Scherffius

Sunday Evening

Announcements..... Doug Jobes
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Jesse Moser

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Lupe Escojido & Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Ronnie Scherffius
Song Leader Fred Scherffius
Devotional Ron White

Other

Usher..... Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion Escojido Family

Congregational News

Birthdays

Bill Young Sept. 27
Tam Archer Sept. 27
Violet Pantel..... Sept. 28

Anniversaries

Paul & Laura Purswell Sept. 27

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

“Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.” Proverbs 16:24

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of September 19, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....55
A.M. Worship.....70
P.M. Worship.....51
Wednesday Bible Class.....53

Offering week of September 19, 2021.....\$ 3,125

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*



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