

“LIFE, A GIFT FROM GOD” Teaching Notes [Romans 14:8 NKJV]
Pastor Dallas Bennett
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For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:8 NKJV

This is a simple description of how everything in our lives revolves around Jesus our lord. As a Christian, He is our world. Our life is not just based on circumstances, if that were true our life would seem so hopeless.

Our lives are not just based on the things we possess, our lives are not just based on the things we can see.

Everything we desire, everything we do, all our focuses must always be on him. Whether we eat or drink, whatever we do, we do it all to the glory of God, we belong to God.

If you were to remove Jesus out of your life, what would be left?

I. LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD:

What does Bible say about life?

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
John 11:25-26 ESV

The most precious gift God ever gave to us other than His son is life itself.

God is the source of all life and all love, in fact, the Bible says He is, love. He is both the source of love and life itself.

He is the Alpha and the Omega the beginning and the end.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
Genesis 2:7 NKJV

II. MAN ABUSES THE GIFT:

Of course, man in his failure brought sin into the world.

God placed man in the garden, He gave clear instructions for him. He was not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. All of the fruits they may enjoy but not this one.

Because of man's sin, death was introduced into the world, and everything that man touches fades away. Nothing that man does can bring us everlasting life.

When your life gets out of focus, and you begin to focus on yourself and your plans and the things that you want.

You are heading down the path of destruction. It is so easy to commit the sin of presumption, The book of James warns us about this.

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.
James 4:14-17 NIV

III. MAN CAN BE REDEEMED:

This is one of my favorite words, redeemed. It means to having been saved or delivered from the consequences of sin.

To be redeemed means to get or win back, get freed, to be free from captivity by payment of ransom, to be released from blame or debt,

No one can accuse us and say we are guilty in our sins.

Jesus said I am the way and the truth and the life no one comes to the father except through me.

You see, if you put hope in Jesus Christ everything changes, God restores, He redeems you.

The Bible says that when God found us, we were dead in our trespasses and our sins. We were following the prince of the power of the air. We were without hope.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
Matthew 16:24-26 NKJV*

IV. LIVING YOUR LIFE IN FREEDOM:

While it is true, we must be willing to die for Jesus, we also need to be able to live for Jesus.

Our life needs to be a testimony every day of God's love.

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

*Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
Matthew 6:25-27, 31, 33-34 NIV*

Now that we have made it clear what the Bible says about life, then the question is, what are we to do with this life?

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me.'
Matthew 25:34-40 NIV*

So the first thing we must do with this life is love God and be thankful for this life. Then, of course, we must love God's people.

*If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.
Romans 14:8 NIV*

Let us live together to live this abundant life.