

## **What Is Your Life?**

No. 43

### **Introduction.**

I. I would like to invite your attention to the reading of James 4:13-17.

**JAM 4:13** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

**JAM 4:14** Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

**JAM 4:15** Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."

**JAM 4:16** But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

**JAM 4:17** Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

A. In this reading we have one of the most provocative questions ever asked.

B. James asked the arrogant merchants, who were planning the future without thought of God or death, "What is your life?" (Jas. 4:14).

II. There are many answers to this curious question about life.

I. **Life Is A Gift** - Life is a gift.

A. On the sixth day of creation, God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living, breathing creature.

B. Since life is a gift from God, it should not be wasted in riotous living. God did not make us for that purpose. God created man to serve and glorify Him. (Eccles. 12:13; Matt. 5:16).

II. **Life Is A Vapor** - Life is a vapor.

A. It is here today and gone tomorrow. The longest life is but a short time in comparison to eternity. (1 Chron. 29:15; Job 14:1, 2; Psa. 90:10; Prov. 27:1; Jas. 4:14).

B. In view of the brevity of life and in view of the vast eternity to come, we should pray the prayer of Moses who said, "So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom." (Psa. 90:12).  
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III. **Life Is Intended To Be Happy** - Life is intended to be happy.

A. There are some people who feel that life is to be sad and gloomy or just a mere existence. Some even go so far as to abuse themselves to make sure that they will not be happy.

**B. This concept of life is certainly not taught in the Bible.**

1. **Jesus** said. (Jn. 10:10).
2. There **used to be a man** who would always say when his friends would ask, “How are you?” “Happy on the way.” Beloved, that’s the way we should be “Happy on the way.”
3. The Bible teaches we are to be full of joy and tells us how to find this great, overflowing joy that makes life a thrill rather than a mere existence.
  - a. Listen to what the Bible says about how to find happiness. (Psa. 144:15; Phil. 4:4; 1 Pet. 3:10, 11; Matt. 5:3-12).
  - b. Yes, the Bible teaches Christians are to be happy and tells us how to be happy.

**IV. Life Is A Preparation** - Life is a preparation.

A. The period of time we are upon the earth should be used to prepare ourselves to move into eternity. (Amos 4:12; 2 Cor. 5:10).

1. These scriptures show that we are here to prepare for the life to come and that we must meet God in the judgment.
2. The realization of this fact should motivate us to prepare ourselves to meet God.

B. Let us consider some things we must do in order to be prepared to meet God.

1. In the first place, we must **accept Christ**.

- a. The great majority of people today think that salvation comes through decency and the merit of good works. They think if they are not great sinners that they have a much better chance of getting to heaven than a wicked person. This is not so. Morality alone will not save.
- b. **Let me illustrate.** You and I go a football game, where the admission price is \$30.00. You have \$10.00 and I have \$1.00. Which of us stands the better chance of gaining admission. You know the answer. Neither one of us can get in.
- c. This is also true of heaven. The moral man may have many more good works in his favor than the wicked man, but since the price of admission is faith in Jesus, he cannot get any closer to heaven than the worse man without Christ. (Jn. 3:36).

2. In the second place, we must **live close to God**.

- a. In a certain meeting **a man was praying very loudly** and a little boy whispered to his mother, “Mother, if he were closer to God, he wouldn’t have to talk so loudly, would he?” Oh, we need to live close to God! We should live in sweet communion with Him each day.
- b. **A certain love song says**, “I’ll be loving you, not for just an hour, not for just a day, not for just

a year, but always.”

- c. It ought to be like this in our Christian living. Let us throw aside our “off and on” Christian living and make it an hourly, daily, yearly, life-time thing. Let us remove the weights of sin that hold us down and soar up closer to God.

3. In the third place, we must **give God our best**.

- a. **A missionary in India once saw a woman going one morning toward the Ganges River** with two children. One was a perfect specimen of health, the other was crippled and mentally deficient. That afternoon he saw her returning. The healthy child was not with her. He asked where he was and she said she had given him as a sacrifice to her crocodile god. When the missionary asked her why she had given the healthy child, she answered, “We always give our god our very best.”
- b. That is what we must do. God gave his best, His only begotten Son. We must give Him our best if we want to be accepted by Him. We cannot give Him the scraps or crumbs and be acceptable. We must present our lives as a living sacrifice. (Rom. 12:1).

4. In the fourth place, we must **lay up treasures in heaven**.

- a. **A rich man took a preacher through his wonderful new home**. The preacher looked upon the displays of wealth on every side. Finally the man took him up into a tower and pointing in every direction he said to the preacher, “All that you can see is mine.” The preacher replied, “It is fine that you have all of this property in every direction, but what do you have in that direction?” He pointed toward heaven.
- b. **This is a good question for all of us**. How much treasure do we have laid up in heaven? Heavenly treasures are the only treasures that will help us in the life to come. (Matt. 6:19-21).

5. In the fifth place, we must **add the Christian graces**.

- a. They will assure us entrance into the eternal kingdom.
- b. Peter penned these words in 2 Peter the first chapter.

**2PE 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge;**

**2PE 1:6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness;**

**2PE 1:7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.**

**2PE 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**2PE 1:9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

**2PE 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;**

**2PE 1:11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will**

**be abundantly supplied to you.**

6. In the sixth place, we must be **faithful unto death**.

- a. **A railroad engineer trained his son to take his place.** He always said to him, "Whatever happens, stick to your engine." After the man died, the son took his place and for many years he was a faithful and fine engineer. Then there came a day when the brakes failed on the engine as it was headed toward a high trestle. The fireman jumped to safety, but the engineer stayed in his place. A terrible wreck ensued and most of the engine was under water. Some people wondered about the engineer, but his mother said, "Go and look in the engine. I am sure you will find him in his place. His father taught him to stick by his engine." And they found him right there, faithful unto death.
- b. We must be faithful unto death. Only those who are faithful unto death will receive the crown of life. (Rev. 2:10).

## **Conclusion.**

I. **Some years ago a young man was brought to a London hospital for surgery.** In his boyhood days he had suffered an accident that left him blind. A gifted surgeon operated on the boy's eyes and his eyes were kept bandaged for several days. The days went by slowly for him, then the day came when the bandages would be removed. They wondered what he would say when the bandages were removed and he was able to see. His friends were there, his mother was there. Finally, the last bandage was removed and the young man opened his eyes. He could see, but he closed his eyes quickly again and said, "I would like to see the face of the man who gave me my sight."

## **II. Oh, don't you feel that way about Jesus!**

- A. Don't you want to see the face of the man who died for us and offers us eternal life? We can see Him today by faith, and we can see Him face to face at the end of the way, and we will be with Him throughout eternity if we are prepared for death and His coming.
- B. Give Jesus your life today. Trust in Him and be baptized and live a life to His glory. Come as we sing!

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