

A LIFE WORTH LIVING

Philippians 4:6-9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Every year over 30,000 Americans decide their lives are not worth living and commit suicide! [32,410 in 1994- *acc.to '96 World Almanac, quoting US Dept.of Health & Human Services*].
 - a) Perhaps **TEN TIMES** this many attempt suicide and fail.
 - b) Hundreds of thousands more seriously **consider killing themselves** but do not attempt to follow through.
 - c) **Among teenagers, suicide is the second most common cause of death.**
2. Something is wrong because the purpose and promise of Jesus coming was, **John 10:10**- *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*
 - a) What is wrong? Why are so many adults and teenagers concluding that life is not worth living?
 - b) Perhaps it is because we are pursuing the wrong goals.
3. Is our goal in life material wealth? After a rich actress took her life a fan said, "She had so much to live for." Another said, "She had so much to live **ON, BUT SO LITTLE TO LIVE FOR.**"!
4. Are we just living for earthly fame? Writer Ernest Hemingway took his own life, and dozens of celebrities have killed themselves.
5. Is education the answer? Psychiatrists are among the most educated people in the world. They must complete training as a medical doctor before they can specialize in psychiatry. Certainly they should understand how the mind works and what it takes to have a satisfied life, and yet of all professional groups, psychiatrists have the highest suicide rate in the nation.
6. What, then, is the answer? May I suggest right from the outset that the **ONLY** answer to suicide is a **greater FAITH IN GOD?**

I. A LIFE WORTH LIVING IS A LIFE THAT IS NOT ANCHORED TO PAST SINS!

- A. **GUILT** is a terrible burden to bear. Sometimes, guilt is so overpowering that people are dragged down to a point where life is such a trauma that they seek to end it.
- B. If we could remove our past sins, we could also remove the guilt that they've caused, and life could become bearable again and loosen us from that tether that ties us to misdeeds of the past!
 1. **THE TRUTH IS** – we CAN get the guilt from every past sin REMOVED!
 2. Those Jews listening to Peter and the other apostles on the day of Pentecost had murdered the very Son of God. Can we even imagine the guilt that would cause. **Acts 2:36-40**
 3. Paul had a hideous past, persecuting innocent Christians, in much the same way HE was later persecuted. **cf. Acts 16:22**- *"The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods."*
 4. But those Jews who crucified Jesus, and Paul who persecuted Christians, and **every other person who ever sinned**, has been able to remove that guilt of sin and **COME ALIVE AGAIN in JESUS CHRIST!** **Heb.10:22**- *"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."*
 5. And **ALL WHO HAVE KNOWN FORGIVENESS** have utilized the SAME cleansing element that God's love has provided! **1 John 1:7**- *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
 - a) What a **marvelous thought** that the blood of Christ is ever present to cleanse us when we sin.
 - b) What an **amazing conviction** that all our **guilt of sin** is removed when we are baptized into Christ, and SUCH GUILT can never return unless we personally allow it by our own ungodly actions and neglect of godliness, **for that same blood is there to cleanse us over and over.**
 6. The same love by which God's grace brought our salvation initially STILL ABOUND! **John 3:16.** Jesus came to accomplish this VERY BENEFIT FOR US! **Matt.28:20.** *Couple that with:*
 - a) **John 8:36**- *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*

- b) **Rom.8:1**- *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

II. A LIFE WORTH LIVING HAS A PRODUCTIVE PRESENT.

- A. One of the most common causes of suicide is the feeling of nothing being accomplished in our lives!
1. People tend to look subjectively at life, considering why SHOULDN'T THEY DIE, rather than considering all the assets that are theirs in living!
 2. **"I have done NOTHING that will bring glory and recognition to myself, so why go on in such a meaningless venture?"**
- B. A life of Christianity brings out those **POSITIVE EFFORTS** in our lives that in turn **bring forth positive benefits to the glory and cause of Jesus Christ!** **1 Pet.4:2**- *"That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but [**HE SHOULD LIVE THE REST OF HIS TIME IN THE FLESH**] to the will of God."*
1. **"OBEYING THE GOSPEL"** is **NOT** just a one-way-street **NOR** a one-time-event, that's all to our own selfish benefit! **Rom.6:4**- *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.**" Exemplified in: **Eph.2:10**- *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."* **4:1**- *"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling** with which you have been called,"* **Col.1:10**- *"[we..pray for you] so that you **will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"**
 2. **"OBEYING THE GOSPEL" IS A LIFE TO LIVE!** **1 Tim.6:18-19**- *"That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; (19) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."*
 3. **"OBEYING THE GOSPEL" IS A RELATIONSHIP TO CHERISH!** **Titus 2:14**- *"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*
- C. When we are truly involved in helping others in accordance with the guidance of God, we have little time to think of ourselves and no excuse for feeling sorry for ourselves.

III. A LIFE WORTH LIVING IS A LIFE WITH A FEARLESS FUTURE.

- A. Many people kill themselves or seriously consider suicide because of what they fear the future will bring.
1. The prospect of failing health, failing finances, difficulties of all sorts leave many people feeling hopeless and helpless. Why not just end it all now with a modicum of dignity?
 2. But friends, since we cannot know the future it is senseless to worry about it.
 - a) The pain we suffer today need not become unbearable tomorrow; it may diminish or go away altogether.
 - b) Our financial situation today is not necessarily an accurate index of what it's going to be tomorrow or next month or next year!
 - c) Family problems may improve in the future.
 - d) And our future opportunities for serving God are COMPLETELY UNKNOWN to us now! Someone you've had an influence could be right on the verge of obeying God – what you do right now will vitally affect someone like that!
- B. We must so live that we can FEARLESSLY FACE THE JUDGMENT of God! **2 Cor.5:10**; **Rev.20:12**.
- C. We are given the assurance of STRENGTH to be able to face every tomorrow. **1 Cor.10:13**.
1. **Psa 23:4**- *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil**: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."*

2. **2 Tim 4:7-8**- *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*
3. **John 14:2-3**- *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

CONCLUSION:

- A. Someone has aptly said, "LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST HAS A HOPELESS END; LIFE WITH CHRIST IS AN ENDLESS HOPE."
- B. A poet has penned encouraging words of such profound truth: **p.552-** "Because He Lives" (chorus)

**"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, All fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!"**
- C. Is your life worth living? **WHAT GIVES IT THAT WORTH?**