

The
Value of

Life



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Forward

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David realized that amassing riches and busily accomplishing worldly tasks would make no difference in eternity.

Some people understand that their only hope is in the Lord.

Life is as a vapor. It appears for a short time and then vanishes away.

Think seriously how you are conducting your life.

In this study, we will discuss many aspect of life and it's values.

Chapter 1



Life comes from the breath of God.

Genesis 2:7

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 soul.

John 20:22

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

The taking of human life

Genesis 4:8-10

Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.

Afterward the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?"

"I don't know!" Cain retorted. "Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?"

But the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen—your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!"

How did Bible people live so long?

Genesis 5:25-27

When Methuselah was 187 years old, his son Lamech was born. After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. He died at the age of 969.

How did these people live so long? Some believe that the ages listed here were lengths of family dynasties rather than ages of individual men.

Those who think these were actual ages offer three explanations:

- (1) The human race was more genetically pure in this early time period, so there was less disease to shorten life spans.
- (2) No rain had yet fallen on the earth, and the expanse of water "above" (Genesis 1:7) kept out harmful cosmic rays and shielded people from environmental factors that hasten aging;
- (3) God gave people longer lives so they would have time to "fill the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

Life has value because we are made in God's image.

Genesis 9:5-6

And murder is forbidden. Animals that kill people must die, and any person who murders must be killed.

Yes, you must execute anyone who murders another person, for to kill a person is to kill a living being made in God's image.

To “demand an accounting” means that God will require each person to account for his or her actions.

We cannot harm or kill another human being without answering to God. A penalty must be paid. Justice will be served.

Here God explains why murder is so wrong: To kill a person is to kill one made in God's image.

Because all human beings are made in God's image, all people possess the qualities that distinguish them from animals: morality, reason, creativity, and self-worth.

When we interact with others, we are interacting with beings made by God, beings to whom God offers eternal life. God wants us to recognize his image in all people.

How to find “real” life”

Deut. 8:3

Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors.

He did it to teach you that people need more than bread for their life; real life comes by feeding on every word of the Lord.

Jesus quoted this verse when the devil tempted him to turn stones into bread (Matthew 4:4).

Many people think that life is based on satisfying their appetites. If they can earn enough money to dress, eat, and play in high style, they think they are living “the good life.” But such things do not satisfy our deepest longings.

In the end they leave us empty and dissatisfied. Real life, according to Moses, comes from total commitment to God, the one who created life itself. It requires discipline, sacrifice, and hard work, and that’s why most people never find it.

Life is short no matter how long we live. If there is something important we want to do, we must not put it off for a better day.

Tell someone about Jesus? Because life is short, don’t neglect what is truly important.

Chapter 2

God is the source of life.

1 Samuel 6:9

If they cross the border of our land and go to Beth-shemesh, we will know it was the Lord who brought this great disaster upon us. If they don't, we will know that the plague was simply a coincidence and was not sent by the Lord at all."

The Philistines acknowledged the existence of the Hebrew God, but only as one of many deities whose favor they sought. Thinking of God in this way made it easy for them to ignore his demand that people worship him alone.

Many people “worship” God this way. They see God as just one ingredient in a successful life. But God is far more than an ingredient—he is the source of life itself. Are you a “Philistine,” seeing God’s favor as only an ingredient of the good life?

John 5:26

The Father has life in himself, and he has granted his Son to have life in himself.

God is the source and Creator of life, for there is no life apart from God, here or hereafter. The life in us is a gift from him (see Deut. 30:20; Psalm 36:9). Because Jesus is eternally existent with God, the Creator, he too is “the life” (John 14:6) through whom we may live eternally (see 1 John 5:11).

Viewing life only in terms of the present.

Job 17:15

But where then is my hope? Can anyone find it?

Job was giving up hope of any future restoration of wealth and family and wrapping himself in thoughts of death and the rest from grief and pain it promised. The rewards that Job's friends described were all related to this present life. They were silent about the possibility of life after death. We must not evaluate life only in terms of this present world because God promises a never-ending, wonderful future to those who are faithful to him.

The brevity of life

Psalm 39:4

"Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away.

Life is short no matter how long we live. If there is something important we want to do, we must not put it off for a better day. Tell someone about Jesus? Because life is short, don't neglect what is truly important.

Psalm 39:5-6

My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a breath." Interlude.

We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth for someone else to spend.

The brevity of life is a theme throughout the books of Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. Jesus also spoke about it (Luke 12:20).

It is ironic that people spend so much time securing their lives on earth and spend little or no thought about where they will spend eternity.

David realized that amassing riches and busily accomplishing worldly tasks would make no difference in eternity.

Few people understand that their only hope is in the Lord..

Using life more wisely.

Psalm 90:12

Teach us to make the most of our time, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Realizing that life is short helps us use the little time we have more wisely and for eternal good.

Take time to number your days by asking, “What do I want to see happen in my life before I die? What small step could I take toward that purpose today?”

God’s ability to restore life

Psalm 126:5-6

Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy.

They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.

God's ability to restore life is beyond our understanding.

Forests burn down and are able to grow back. Broken bones heal. Even grief is not a permanent condition.

Our tears can be seeds that will grow into a harvest of joy because God is able to bring good out of tragedy.

When burdened by sorrow, know that your times of grief will end and that you will again find joy. We must be patient as we wait. God's great harvest of joy is coming!

How we waste our lives

Psalm 144:3-4

O Lord, what are mortals that you should notice us, mere humans that you should care for us?

For we are like a breath of air; our days are like a passing shadow.

Life is short. David reminds us that it is "like a breath" and that our "days are like a fleeting shadow." James says that our lives are "a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:14).

Because life is short, we should live for God while we have the time. Don't waste your life by selecting an inferior purpose that has no lasting value. Live for God—he alone can make your life worthwhile, purposeful, and meaningful.

Chapter 3



The best way to enjoy life

Matthew 10:39

If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it.

This verse is a positive and negative statement of the same truth: clinging to this life may cause us to forfeit the best from Christ in this world *and* in the next. The more we love this life's rewards (leisure, power, popularity, financial security), the more we will discover how empty they really are. The best way to enjoy life, therefore, is to loosen our greedy grasp on earthly rewards so that we can be free to follow Christ. In doing so, we will inherit eternal life and begin at once to experience the benefits of following Christ.

Why your life must be filled with God.

Matthew 12:43-45

"When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. Then it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and clean.

Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation."

Jesus was describing the attitude of the nation of Israel and the religious leaders in particular. Just cleaning up one's life without filling it with God leaves plenty of room for Satan to enter.

The book of Ezra records how the people rid themselves of idolatry, but failed to replace it with love for God and obedience to him. Ridding our lives of sin is the first step.

We must also take the second step: filling our lives with God's Word and the Holy Spirit. Unfilled and complacent people are easy targets for Satan.

Which life is most important to you?

Matthew 14:35-36

The news of their arrival spread quickly throughout the whole surrounding area, and soon people were bringing all their sick to be healed.

The sick begged him to let them touch even the fringe of his robe, and all who touched it were healed.

The people recognized Jesus as a great healer, but how many understood who he truly was? They came to Jesus for physical healing, but did they come for spiritual healing? They came to prolong their lives on earth, but did they come to secure their eternal lives?

People may seek Jesus to learn valuable lessons from his life or in hopes of finding relief from pain. But we miss Jesus' whole message if we seek him only to heal our bodies but not our souls, if we look to him for help only in this life, rather than for his eternal plan for us.

Only when we understand the real Jesus Christ can we appreciate how he can truly change our lives.

Jewish men wore tassels on the lower edges of their robes according to God's command (Deut. 22:12).

By Jesus' day, these tassels were seen as signs of holiness (Matthew 23:5).

It was natural that people seeking healing should reach out and touch these. But as one sick woman learned, healing came from faith and not from Jesus' cloak (Matthew 9:19-22).

Luke 9:24-25

If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life.

And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose or forfeit your own soul in the process?

If this present life is most important to you, you will do everything you can to protect it. You will not want to do anything that might endanger your safety, health, or comfort. By contrast, if following Jesus is most important, you may find yourself in unsafe, unhealthy, and uncomfortable places.

You will risk death, but you will not fear it because you know that Jesus will raise you to eternal life.

Nothing material can compensate for the loss of eternal life. Jesus' disciples are not to use their lives on earth for their own pleasure—they should spend their lives serving God and people.

Jesus places great value on life

Matthew 8:32

"All right, go!" Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

When the demons entered the pigs, they drove the animals into the sea. The demons' action proves their destructive intent—if they could not destroy the men, they would destroy the pigs. Jesus' action, by contrast, shows the value he places on each human life.

What it means to lose one's life.

Mark 8:35

If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life.

We should be willing to lose our lives for the sake of the gospel, not because our lives are useless but because nothing—not even life itself—can compare to what we gain with Christ.

Jesus wants us to *choose* to follow him rather than to lead a life of sin and self-satisfaction. He wants us to stop trying to control our own destiny and to let him direct us.

This makes good sense because, as the Creator, Christ knows better than we do what real life is about. He asks for submission, not self-hatred; he asks us only to lose our self-centered determination to be in charge.

What it means to live abundantly.

Mark 8:36-37

And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?

Many people spend all their energy seeking pleasure. Jesus said, however, that a world of pleasure centered on possessions, position, or power is ultimately worthless.

Whatever you have on earth is only temporary; it cannot be exchanged for your soul.

If you work hard at getting what you want, you might eventually have a “pleasurable” life, but in the end you will find it hollow and empty. Are you willing to make the pursuit of God more important than the selfish pursuit of pleasure?

Follow Jesus, and you will know what it means to live abundantly now and to have eternal life as well.

Chapter 4



How to begin a new life in Christ

John 1:12-13

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan—this rebirth comes from God.

All who welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives are reborn spiritually, receiving new life from God.

Through faith in Christ, this new birth changes us from the inside out—rearranging our attitudes, desires, and motives. Being born makes you physically alive and places you in your parents' family (John 1:13).

Being born of God makes you spiritually alive and puts you in God's family (John 1:12). Have you asked Christ to make you a new person? This fresh start in life is available to all who believe in Christ.

Parallels between physical and spiritual life

John 4:13-15

Jesus replied, "People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life."

"Please, sir," the woman said, "give me some of that water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to haul water."

Jesus as the way, truth and life

John 14:6

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

This is one of the most basic and important passages in Scripture. How can we know the way to God?

Only through Jesus

Jesus is the way because he is both God and man. By uniting our lives with his, we are united with God. Trust Jesus to take you to the Father, and all the benefits of being God's child will be yours.

Jesus says he is the *only* way to God the Father.

Some people may argue that this way is too narrow.

In reality, it is wide enough for the whole world, if the world chooses to accept it. Instead of worrying about how limited it sounds to have only one way, we should be saying, “Thank you, God, for providing a sure way to get to you!”

As the *way*, Jesus is our path to the Father. As the *truth*, he is the reality of all God’s promises. As the *life*, he joins his divine life to ours, both now and eternally.

**What you put into life is more important
Than what you get out of life**

Acts 20:24

But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God’s wonderful kindness and love.

We often feel that life is a failure unless we’re getting a lot out of it: recognition, fun, money, or success.

But Paul considered life worth *nothing* unless he used it for God’s work. What he put *into* life was far more important than what he got out. Which is more important to you—what you get out of life, or what you put into it?

Single-mindedness is a quality needed by anyone who wishes to do God’s work. Paul was a single-minded person, and the most important goal of his life was to tell others about Christ (Phil. 3:7-13). It is no wonder that Paul was the greatest missionary who ever lived. God is looking for more men and women who focus on that one great task God has given them to do.

New life in Christ

Romans 6:5

Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised as he was.

We can enjoy our new life in Christ because we are united with him in his death and resurrection.

Our evil desires, our bondage to sin, and our love of sin died with him. Now, united by faith with him in his resurrection life, we have unbroken fellowship with God and freedom from sin's hold on us.

The difference between our new life in Christ and our old sinful nature

Ephesians 4:21-24

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

People should be able to see a difference between Christians and non-Christians because of the way Christians live.

We are to live as children of light (Ephes. 5:8). Paul told the Ephesians to leave behind the old life of sin, since they were followers of Christ.

Living the Christian life is a process. Although we have a new nature, we don't automatically think all good thoughts and express all right attitudes when we become new people in Christ. But if we keep listening to God, we will be changing all the time.

As you look back over last year, do you see a process of change for the better in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions? Although change may be slow, it comes as you trust God to change you.

Our old way of life before we believed in Christ is completely in the past. We should put it behind us like old clothes to be thrown away.

This is both a once-for-all decision when we decide to accept Christ's gift of salvation (Ephes. 2:8-10) and also a daily conscious commitment.

We are not to be driven by desire and impulse. We must put on the new role, head in the new direction, and have the new way of thinking that the Holy Spirit gives.

Col. 3:3-15

For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

What does it mean that a believer's life is "hidden with Christ"? *Hidden* means concealed and safe. This is not only a future hope, but an accomplished fact right now.

Our service and conduct do not earn our salvation, but they are results of our salvation. Take heart that your salvation is sure, and live each day for Christ.

And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Christ gives us power to live for him now, and he gives us hope for the future—he will return. In the rest of this chapter Paul explains how Christians should act *now* in order to be prepared for Christ's return.

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry.

We should consider ourselves dead and unresponsive to sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed. Just like diseased limbs of a tree, these practices must be cut off before they destroy us. We must make a conscious, daily decision to remove anything that supports or feeds these desires and to rely on the Holy Spirit's power.

God's terrible anger will come upon those who do such things.

The “wrath of God” refers to God's judgment on these kinds of behavior, culminating with future and final punishment of evil. When tempted to sin, remember that you must one day stand before God.

You used to do them when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds.

In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.

We must rid ourselves of all evil practices and immorality. Then we can commit ourselves to what Christ teaches. Paul was appealing to the commitment the believers had made and urging them to remain true to their confession of faith.

They were to rid themselves of the old life and “put on” the new way of living given by Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit. If you have made such a commitment to Christ, are you remaining true to it?

Lying to one another disrupts unity by destroying trust. It tears down relationships and may lead to serious conflict in a church. So don't exaggerate statistics, pass on rumors or gossip, or say things to build up your own image. Be committed to telling the truth.

What does it mean to “put on the new self”? It means that your conduct should match your faith. If you are a Christian, you should act like it.

To be a Christian means more than just making good resolutions and having good intentions; it means taking the right actions. This is a straightforward step that is as simple as putting on your clothes.

Every Christian is in a continuing education program. The more we know of Christ and his work, the more we are being changed to be like him.

Because this process is lifelong, we must never stop learning and obeying. There is no justification for drifting along, but there is an incentive to find the rich treasures of growing in him.

It takes practice, ongoing review, patience, and concentration to keep in line with his will.

In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

The Christian church should have no barriers of nationality, race, education level, social standing, wealth, gender, religion, or power. Christ breaks down all barriers and accepts all people who come to him.

Nothing should keep us from telling others about Christ or accepting into our fellowship any and all believers (Ephes. 2:14-15). Christians should be building bridges, not walls.

Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are all called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Paul offers a strategy to help us live for God day by day:

- (1) Imitate Christ's compassionate, forgiving attitude (Col. 3:12-13);
- (2) Let love guide your life (Col. 3:14);
- (3) let the peace of Christ rule in your heart (Col. 3:15);
- (4) Always be thankful (Col. 3:15);
- (5) Keep God's Word in you at all times (Col. 3:16);
- (6) Live as Jesus Christ's representative (Col. 3:17).

Chapter 5

Christ holds the true meaning to life.

Col. 2:10

And you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe.

When we know Jesus Christ, we don't need to seek God by means of other religions, cults, or unbiblical philosophies as the Colossians were doing.

Christ alone holds the answers to the true meaning of life, because he *is* life. Christ is the unique source of knowledge and power for the Christian life.

No Christian needs anything in addition to what Christ has provided to be saved. We are complete in him.

Life is short no matter how long you live

James 4:14

How do you know what will happen tomorrow? For your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.

It is good to have goals, but goals will disappoint us if we leave God out of them. There is no point in making plans as though God does not exist, because the future is in his hands. What would you like to be doing ten years from now? One year from now?

Tomorrow? How will you react if God steps in and rearranges your plans? Plan ahead, but hold your plans loosely. Put God's desires at the center of your planning; he will never disappoint you.

Life is short no matter how many years we live. Don't be deceived into thinking that you have lots of remaining time to live for Christ, to enjoy your loved ones, or to do what you know you should. Live for God today!

Then, no matter when your life ends, you will have fulfilled God's plan for you.

How to be saved

Romans 10:9-10

For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

Romans 10:13

For "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Please pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus

I believe you are the Christ,
The son of the Living God
I ask you to come into my life

Forgive me of my sins
And save me now.
I pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen

References:

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**Additional comments and charts are taken from:
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