

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What is Real Life?

I John 1:1-4

1 God created man and then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. 2 Man, then, became a living being. 1

3

What kind of life did God intend for you to live? Is this life just existence? Is it simply to find as much pleasure and comfort as possible and that's it?

If God created you, then there's got to be more to life than mere existence or why bother? You get up in the morning; get breakfast; shower; go to work taking lunch and work breaks; come home; eat supper; watch television and then go to bed. It's the same thing every day. You live for your vacations and then back to the work routine. Is that it? 4

What's the answer? 5

Life needs to have purpose. The world's concept of purpose is to be a success, to be popular and to own

¹ Genesis 2:7 - The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

a bunch of stuff. ⁶ But the Lord says, **A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.** ²

The world's most noble purpose is to raise and care for children in a fine disciplined home until they are old enough to be on their own. Right? ⁷ But the Apostle Paul says, **If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.** ³

So, what is real life? ⁸ From First John, chapter 1, verses 1 through 4, we read, **That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.** ⁹

² Luke 12:15.

³ I Corinthians 15:19.

I. What is Real Life?

What is real life? ¹⁰

Notice again verse 2, The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. It is a life that can be seen and demonstrated. When you look at the world you don't see real live the way God intended it.

So, Jesus came to earth, lived and demonstrated God's life as an example to you. When you look at the life of Christ found in the Gospels, you can say, "Yeah, that's it! That's the way life should be lived!" ¹¹

In the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 14, we read, In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ¹²

His life consisted in **words** to be listened to. Peter asked, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁴ ¹³

⁴ John 6:68.

His life was **seen** and **heard**. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. ⁵ ₁₄

His life was **handled** with hands. Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe. ⁶ ₁₅

This real life you can live is the visible witness that you have been possessed by Lord Jesus! First John, chapter 5, verses 11 and 12, put it this way, **And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.** When Moses was in the presence of God, his face was so bright he had to wear a veil. ¹⁶ People will know you've been in the presence of God when they see your changed life! ¹⁷

Notice again verse 2, ⁷ It's a God-like life. This life was "with" the Father. This idea is of nearness and

⁵ Acts 4:20.

⁶ John 20:27.

⁷ v2 - The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

closeness. This is God's life! ¹⁸ The purpose for Jesus coming to us was to make this life available. He said, **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.** ⁸ The King James and the American Standard versions of the Bible translate this phrase "have it abundantly". ¹⁹

Notice again verse 2, ⁹ it is an eternal life. This rich, purposeful, abundant God-like life that you can have right now will last forever! ²⁰ First John, chapter 2, verse 25, ¹⁰ says that eternal life was God's promise. ²¹

What is eternal life? **Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.** ¹¹ ²²

⁸ John 10:10.

⁹ v2 - The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

¹⁰ I John 2: 25 - And this is what he promised us — even eternal life.

¹¹ John 17:3.

II. What Does This Life Do For You?

What does this life do for you? ²³ Let's look at verse 3 again, **We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.** This life gives you a true bond with others! ²⁴ The word **fellowship** ¹² in the original language means "a common shared experience". ²⁵

It's a bond with the Son and with the Father, **See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.** ¹³ ²⁶ It's also a bond with other believers, **My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** ¹⁴

¹² κοινωνία.

¹³ I John 2:24.

¹⁴ John 17:20-21.

While in the military, my family and I lived in Europe and South Korea. We were the foreigners. Yet we found a bond as close as family with the Christians we met and loved there. We had trouble communicating at times, but we always felt we were at home with them!

As we became acquainted with other military families that bond also became very real. When we would run into them, after years of separation, it would be like a family reunion. I guess the closeness was felt because we sensed we would bond with these people throughout eternity! ²⁷

Do you have doubts as to whether you have this real life? The purpose for the Book of First John in our Bibles was to remove those doubts! ²⁸ First John, chapter 5, verse 13, concludes, **I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ²⁹**

Study this biblical book and then measure your life by what it says. You'll not have doubts again!

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