2025-12-14

<u>Why Jesus Came to Earth #3</u>

John 10:7-10

Jesus said in our scripture today that He came to this earth so that we may have life. What is life? What is Jesus referring to? Aren't we alive? Don't we have life already because we are alive? Why would Jesus speak to living people about life if they already have life. It is obvious to Jesus that there is something more to the meaning of life than this existence on earth. Remember where Jesus is from. He is from heaven (John 8:23). Life in heaven is real life. Lots of people worry about their life on earth when they should be concerned about life beyond this earth. Some people do not know where **their next meal or their next drink** is coming from. Some people worry about if they will have enough clothes to keep themselves warm during the cold nights. Jesus said to them, "*Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing*?" (Matthew 6:25). Jesus told those people to look around them and observe His creation. God has provided for all the plants and all the animals. If God provides for all the plant and all the animals then God has provided for people who are created in His image and therefore, more important to Him. God knows what we need. He has made all the provisions for us. Why worry about this life? Instead of seeking things of this life, Jesus said we should seek His kingdom and learn to live life God's way. Then our focus will be on eternal life. When we focus our life on God's plan, the way He wants us to live, we will learn that God has provided everything we need (Matthew 6:26-33).

Many people are trying to understand life. Someone once said, "Life is a bowl of cherries." Their idea is that life is full of all kinds of pleasures. That is how some people view life, having all their desires met. Erma Bombeck responded in a book, "If life is a bowl of cherries, what am I doing in the pits?" She was thinking that we should find meaning in everything in life, both the good and the bad. Some people think that **being retired** is the life. They have finished working. Now they can kick back and relax. I have heard that after a few months of doing nothing, lots of people either die or they find some work to keep themselves busy. Of course, in the Forrest Gump movie, we have that famous line, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get." In this world, it is true. We do not know what is going to happen tomorrow. Whatever their life is, there are people who seek to save and preserve their lives. They want life the way they want life. **They do not see what is beyond this life**. Jesus said, "*Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it*" (Luke 17:33). This is one of those lines that is found in all four gospels. Jesus probably said these words many times. John records Jesus saying, "*He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in*

this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25). If we love our sinful lifestyle because we **think that this is all there is**, and we seek to preserve our sinful lifestyle, we will lose the life God has commanded us to have, eternal life (John 12:50). But if we hate our sinful lifestyle in this world and repent of that lifestyle knowing full well that **there is eternity after death**, and we turn to follow Jesus, we will be rewarded with eternal life. God really desires everyone to have eternal life, but not everyone receives eternal life. God gives us a choice.

What is life? Is life having lots of money? I have heard that some very rich people are very lonely. We think of the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22). He was rich, young and powerful, yet he was missing something. He thought there was something beyond this life. He wanted eternal life. He came to Jesus seeking the answer to what he was missing. He was a good person. He kept the commandments as he understood them, yet he knew he was missing something. I like how Matthew records Jesus' response. "*If you want to enter into life*." The meaning of life here and many places in scripture refers to eternal life. There is something more to life than just this existence. This man had his priorities mixed up if he was trying to enter into heaven. He needed to sell everything, give the money to the poor and follow Jesus. In other words, he needed to change his lifestyle and his priorities. That was way too much for him to accept. He was not willing to go that far. That rich young ruler did not know what he was going to miss. Jesus said it was hard for rich people to get into heaven (19:23). Why? Because they love this life with all their wealth and luxuries. They do not understand how wonderful eternal life will be. If they understood, they would be willing to give up everything to gain eternal life (Matthew 13:44-46). Jesus also said, "*Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*" (Matthew 7:14). Let's walk through our scripture about life.

John 10:7-8 "*Then Jesus said to them again*, '*Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them*.'" Jesus is telling us the truth. He is the door of the sheep. The sheep represent those who know God, who are seeking His kingdom and doing His will. They trust in God's truth. They have died to their sinful lifestyle and they are living life according to God's plan. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6) and the sheep know this. The sheep know that only in Jesus is there life (5:40). He is the door, the path, the way into this eternal life. The true sheep, those true followers of God throughout all the ages are never deceived. Many people have come into the world teaching a way to life that sounds good but it is false. Many more people will come into the world telling the world what real life is, calling them to follow their plan, their way. They are all liars. They are all false prophets. They are thieves and robbers stealing people. They keep people from believing the truth.

They trick them into believing their lies. The sheep, God's true followers, do not listen to them. They know God's voice and they follow only Him. Jesus gives them eternal life (John 10:27-28).

Verse 9 "*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture*." Jesus is the only way to enter into this eternal life. He is giving everyone in the world a choice between the lies of the world and the truth of God, between wrong and right, between death and life. If anyone, Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, slave or free comes to Jesus and chooses Him and rejects all the others, that person will be saved from the punishment of their sins. They will be given eternal life. Everyone who follows God through Jesus Christ is free. They are free to enjoy eternal life. This eternal life is beyond description. **Paul described the body** we will have in this eternal life. In this life we live in corruption. In heaven we have no corruption. In this life we live in dishonor. In heaven we live in glory. In this life we live in weakness. In heaven we live in power. In this life we have a natural body. In heaven we have a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). **Jesus described the freedom we will have** in our eternal life. We have freedom of movement, going in and out. We have freedom of life in the pasture. "*There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain*" (Revelation 22:4). This life will be better than you could ever imagine. You do not want to miss out. But the only way to receive this life is by going through the door, who is Jesus. We must faithfully believe and follow God and His righteousness. "*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent*" (John 17:3).

Verse 10 "*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly*." Who is this thief? It is the devil. He has come to steal people away from the kingdom of God. He knows his end. He will be "*cast into the lake of fire and brimstone*" (Revelation 20:10). Misery loves company. The devil is trying to persuade all the people in the world to follow him into his destruction. The devil came to kill. He came to destroy our lives. **Jesus came that we may have life**. He left heaven, the most glorious place, so He could live among us. "*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*" (John 1:14). This is Christmas. Jesus came to teach us that there is a greater life than this life on earth. This greater life, this eternal life is freely given to everyone who believes in Jesus. Believing in Jesus begins with repenting of our sinful lifestyle and trusting in God's redeeming work through Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. Because we believe in Jesus, we want to live a life that brings glory to God in this fallen world. Those who believe have this testimony. "*And this is the testimony: that 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. These things I have*

written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:11-13).

I have heard it said that if the Bible is right and the world is wrong, there will be lots of people who will miss out on the most glorious experience, life in heaven in the presence of God. Then those people will say, but if the world is right and the Bible is wrong, at least Christians have lived a good, descent life. **This is not what the Bible teaches**. Paul wrote, "*If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable*" (1 Corinthians 15:19). If our hope in God, who came into our world in Jesus is false, if the resurrection of Jesus never happened, if Christianity is not true, then we are living a lie. We have suffered loss for living a life of sacrifice. We should be pitied. **But Christmas is true!** God did come into our world! A virgin did give birth to Jesus! Jesus did live a perfect life! His words and teachings are true! **Whoever lives and believes in Jesus will have everlasting life!** (John 11:26). Jesus did suffer and die in our place for our sins! He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven! He will return to this earth! There is a coming judgment. The Bible is right. There will be lots of people who will miss out on eternal life in heaven because they refused to believe the truth that God has revealed.

Thank God for Christmas. Thank God that Jesus gave His life for us before we believed, that we may live. Thank God that we know the truth. Jesus came that we may have life, eternal life. This knowledge makes this life here on earth more abundant no matter what happens.

Questions to ask yourself: Do you have Jesus living in your life? Do you have eternal life? Do you know how wonderful eternal life is? Are you willing to do whatever it takes to gain eternal life, even if it means selling everything you have? Read Matthew 13:44-46

Actions to take: God may not require us to sell everything. But we must recognize what we must do to gain eternal life. Believe Jesus. Love God. Love your neighbor. Do what Jesus teaches. Follow God faithfully.

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