

ABUNDANT LIVING

John 10:10

INTRODUCTION

- A. In our text the Christ calls for abundant living.
- B. A tragedy: Many think following the Christ subtracts from real life (living). No theory could take you further from the truth.
- C. There is something wrong when people get more enjoyment out of staying home from services Sunday and Wednesday nights instead of coming and singing, praying, studying, and having fellowship with all the church.
- D. If we really believe the statement the Christ makes in JN 10:10, it would be difficult to get the church not to discharge its responsibilities.
- E. What is the real question in HE 10:25? It is not "attendance as such!" Paul is trying to help these Hebrews to rediscover the real enjoyable life, "abundant life." Point: People would be motivated within themselves if they really enjoyed Christianity.
- F. Illustration: The principal entered the classroom and asked the students, "What's the most wonderful thing in the world? One boy said, "To have a big computer with all the games on it." One girl said, "To have the best MP3 player with all my favorite songs on it." Another said, "The most wonderful thing in the world to me would be to grow and grow forever." Now that's real life isn't it?
- G. The Christ came to give people life here and life hereafter. He came to expand life in order that it might grow. 1 PE 2:2; 2 PE 3:18.
- H. The Christ did not come to shut people up in prison. Those in prison are limited.

DISCUSSION

- I. NOTICE SOME "KEYNOTE" WORDS IN THE NT THAT DESCRIBE REAL LIVING.
 - A. Joy – The theme of the Phillipian letter. 1:4, 25; 2:2, 17, 18; 4:1.
 - B. Peace – JN 16:33.
 - C. Power – There's power in purpose – DA 1:8.
 - D. Love – 1 CO 13.
 - E. Strength – EP 6:11-18.
 - F. Truth – JN 8:32.
 - G. Life – JN 10:10.
 - H. Victory – 1 JN 5:4.
 - I. Some characters in the Bible that just thought they were living.
 - 1. Lot – GE 18-19.
 - 2. Ahab – 1 KI 22.
 - 3. Esau – GE 27.
 - 4. Demas – 2 TI 4:10.
 - J. Some characters in the Bible that were really living.
 - 1. Abraham – GE 12-25.
 - 2. Ruth – Ruth 1-4.
 - 3. Paul – PH 4:10-13.
- II. NOTICE SOME "KEYNOTE" WORDS IN THE NT THAT DESCRIBE MISERABLE LIVING.
 - A. Hate – MT 5:48, 44.
 - B. Selfishness – RO 2:8; 2 CO 12:20; GA 5:20; PH 1:16; 2:3; JA 5:3:14, 16.
Strong's #2052 "strife, contention."
 - C. Greed – EP 4:19; RO 1:29.
 - D. Lust – GA 5:19-21.
 - E. Envy – 1 CO 6:9, 10.

- F. Strife – RO 1:28-32.
 - G. Emulation – GA 5:20; JA 3:14, 16 (envy).
 - H. Lying – RE 21:8.
 - I. Cheating – 1 CO 6:7-8 (defraud).
 - J. Backbiting – 2 CO 12:20; 1 PE 2:1.
 - K. Therefore, it is a mistaken idea one thinks that he or she lives more by sinning. Really he/she lives less. Sin subtracts from life.
 - L. Illustration: One fellow thought he could not have any fun unless he was down at the bar. That was real living to him – but really, was it? This same man said, “I will never do that again.” He came to himself like the prodigal son in LK 15.
- III. THE CHRIST PROVIDES ABUNDANT LIVING BECAUSE HE POINTS TO TRUE VALUES OF LIFE.
- A. Life can be too cramped to grow. LK 8:14. Example: The Japanese used to bind the feet of their children so they would not grow.
 - B. Christ provides life to make it large to enough to be unlimited.
 - C. People ask:
 - 1. What is there to live for?
 - 2. Are there any true values?
 - 3. What is the fullest life?
 - 4. Where can real happiness be found?
 - 5. What are the values that last?
 - 6. What are the things that satisfy?
 - D. Illustration: The hippies of my day went out searching for the answer to the above questions. It brought about the “hippie movement.” But they were looking where they could not find it. The “wise men” came to Jerusalem and was sent to find the Christ! MT 2:1-16.
 - E. Too many people are putting life into too narrow limits.
 - F. Illustration: A man with two sisters living in Chicago. One of the sisters died. When the officials got there these people were living in an apartment without any heat, lights, etc. It wasn’t because the resources were not available for using. It was because they did not make the effort to obtain them. These people were sitting on the floor in overcoats.
 - G. This illustrates how we rob ourselves of the blessings that would add so much to our being by the obtaining. Note the riches of His grace in EP 2:7.
 - H. One of the guides that the Christ gives for abundant living is that the center of our lives must be changed.
 - 1. MT 16:24-26 – Deny himself. No life will ever be full that is self-centered.
 - 2. Emptiest life is the self-centered one.
 - 3. Song: "All of self and none of thee. Some of self and some of thee. None of self and all of thee."
 - 4. 2 CO 4:5 – We preach not ourselves.
 - 5. 2 CO 5:15 – Since Christ dies for us we should FOR HIM.
 - 6. Life grows stale if we make ourselves the center of attraction and live to gratify ourselves.
 - 7. Make God, purity, peace, and the welfare of others, the center of your life and it will become worth living.
- IV. THE ABUNDANT LIFE MUST BECOME TIED TO GOD’S PURPOSE.
- A. In Christ we find God working out His purpose. EP 3:10-11.
 - B. Christ calls men to become co-workers with God. 1 CO 3:9.
 - C. In Christ we find life has purpose, not chance. We are building “with” God.

- D. Discovery of God's purpose in Christ gives life its supreme purpose.
- E. This makes life worth living under circumstance.
 - 1. Paul in prison, "rejoice" – PH 1:18, 26; 2:16-18, 28; 3:1, 3; 4:4, 10.
 - 2. Paul in prison, "for me to live is Christ." PH 1:21.
- V. TO LIVE ABUNDANTLY, ONE MUST REACH BEYOND THREESCORE YEARS AND TEN. PS 90:10.
 - A. Life will never be full if we only think of our short span here on earth.
 - B. Life in its fullest cannot be enjoyed unless we take eternity into account, 2 TI 1:10.
 - C. Illustration: Young man went to the preacher for advice. Young man had a chance to make \$1 million dollars but he had to become dishonest to do it. He struggled with his conscience but could not shake the appeal of \$1 million dollars. The preacher talked to him about honesty and uprightness but made no progress. Then the preacher talked to him about life beyond and the decisions of this life would after life then. The young man said, "Sir, if I believed the way you do, \$1 million dollars would not be a temptation at all."
 - D. It makes no difference when you consider how long you plan on living. 60, 70, 100 years will take on a different color if we plan to live forever.
- VI. CHRIST PROVIDES ABUNDANT LIVING BECAUSE HE BREAKS THE SHACKLES THAT BIND THE SOUL.
 - A. A shackle is something that limits one's activities.
 - 1. Prisoners on the highway – shackles on feet to limit their activities.
 - 2. Prisoners – life restricted – walls padded – small cells – shut in!
 - 3. Blindness – activities are limited.
 - B. LK 4:18.
 - 1. Gospel – "glad tidings" or "good news."
 - a. Life cannot be lived at its fullest if all you hear is bad news. Think of living a year with only bad news each day. Most of us would break under the strain.
 - b. Christ brings good news. The Gospel means glad tidings.
 - c. Illustration: Exploratory surgery – family sitting, waiting in quietness, then in walks the doctor. First question, "Do you have good news?" Family cries with joy.
 - d. Just think how full life could be if we would think on the good news of life.
 - e. Illustration: Man asked, "What one thing do you remember the best?" The other man responded with sadness, "The year the tornado came through and tore, ripped and destroyed our home."
 - 2. LK 4:18 – Jesus came, "... preach deliverance to the captives...."
 - a. Delivers soul from captivity of sin.
 - b. JN 8:32.
 - c. The truth makes us free.
 - C. LK 4:18 – Jesus came to "...give sight to the blind...."
 - 1. Worst blindness is spiritual – MK 4:12.
 - 2. Jesus came to give sight to the soul to enable men to live (life) at its fullest.

CONCLUSION

- A. If abundant living is to be enjoyed we must have strength beyond ourselves.
- B. This is what the Christ came to provide.
- C. PH 4:13.