

A Life Worth Living
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Introduction: Our God wants us to have life!

- A. Physical life is a gift to all, but it by no means is the life God offers us.
 - 1. There is a much greater “life” that Jesus came to give. **(Jn 5:26, 39-40)**
 - 2. How many really know why they are here and what life is about?
 - 3. We are surrounded by sad, fearful, lonely people who try to escape seeking answers to their lives. Many wear a mask.
- B. Jesus is pictured as one who gives light and purpose but one whom the world hates and rejects. **(Jn 10:10; 1:10-12)**
 - 1. Jesus showed how we can live by dying! How we receive by giving!
 - 2. The Christian life is full of meaning but to the world it is filled with frightful paradoxes. **(2 Cor 6:9-10)**
 - 3. I want to exhort those who are looking to the future to start here.

I. Life must be given and sustained in Christ

- A. Life in Christ we start with death. **(Rom 6:3-4)**
 - 1. This is a death of the will and complete submission to Jesus.
 - 2. It reflects a lifetime of “eatingHis flesh and blood.” **(Jn 6:53-58)**
 - 3. This is the bottleneck of conversion! How many really repent and give their will to the Lord?
- B. True life comes at a high cost! **(1 Cor 3:11-13)**
 - 1. A living faith will put the best into service to God. No junk is allowed!
 - 2. Those of you who receive a degree, did it come easy? Did you pick and choose when you felt like going to class or if you wanted to take a test?
 - 3. We despise that which is cheap and easy. **(1 Chron 21:24; Mal 1:13-14)**
 - 4. Churches can be filled with members who have stopped fighting the good fight and have stopped putting God first. They have no abundant life.
 - 5. Do not join with or be led by those like the “Laodiceans.” **(Rev 3:15-17)**
- C. Give great attention to the teaching you receive! **(1 Tim 4:13-16)**
 - 1. We must demand the truth especially when it hurts. Have you had a friend complain about negative preaching? What do they mean?
 - 2. Many churches are appearing to decide that less preaching and teaching is better. What did Laodicea need? **(Rev 3:18-19)**
 - 3. Your generation may have to start over in many places in this country!

II. Life continues or perishes as the heart is maintained

- A. The heart is like soil where the word of God may grow or perish! **(Lk 8:15)**
 - 1. This is not just true in conversion. We must discern! **(Heb 3:12-13)**
 - 2. There is a real test in how we respond when rebuked. Do you respond in integrity or in anger and scoffing? **(Psa 1:1)**

3. Satan plants bitterness and pride so that you might lose control of your mind. Please do not “give place to the devil.” **(Eph 4:25-26)**
 4. You have been warned concerning many things that the world promotes.
- B. Make honesty an absolute priority. **(James 3:17)**
1. God will test us to see if we really want truth. The easy way out is there.

Give Me The Truth
by Bill Crews

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear that the truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins you can help. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove yourself charitable. However I may react to it whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, give me the truth! For the truth, and only the truth, can make men free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness and lead me to the joys of heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass, if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left first love; if I have been led astray by error; or if I have done none of these, but simply need to grow in knowledge and be edified, give me the truth!

2. “Do these verses describe me?” **(Mt 5:6; Amos 5:14-15; Prov 11:27)**
 - a. Hungering and seeking the truth is an “acquired” taste.
 - b. We must maintain this desire. **(Rom 12:9; 16:19)**
 3. An evil heart also comes from a lifetime of choices. **(Jer 4:22)**
 - a. I have known Christians who later adapted a lifestyle that they would have never dreamed of. This did not happen overnight.
 - b. Your choices will become your character. **(Jer 13:23 NIV)**
 - c. The lazy, unchallenged person will in time be found in Satan’s camp.
- C. Maintain a heart of thanksgiving. **(Col 2:6-7; 4:2)**
1. I have not known of a thankful, discerning person to fall away.
 2. When we really see God, we see how small we are and how small our problems are!

III. Life never quits

- A. Our God will allow us to go through the fires of tests. **(1 Pt 1:6-7)**
1. My dad’s greatest example to me was his fight to provide for the family.
 2. God often has his people face their worst fears so that they can see themselves as God does.
 3. Wise parenting learns how to use tests rather than run from them.
- B. Peter needed to learn some very difficult lessons. **(Lk 22:31-32)**
1. What was Peter like when he returned to God?
 2. What tests might you face in your future? You will face them!
 3. Peter knew who Jesus was and where eternal life is found. **(Jn 6:66-68)**

Conclusion: It is my prayer that your time here has prepared you for the life ahead!