Desire Life!

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday May 17th, 2020

Text: I Pet. 3:8-12

### Intro

1. Before the Israelites crossed the Jordan and possessed the Promised Land, Moses, in his farewell speech to them, set the conditions for them to keep the land: continual obedience!
   1. *Deuteronomy 28-30:* Moses’ farewell, calling on the Israelites to remember their covenant with God and to keep His word.
   2. *Deuteronomy 30:11-20:* Moses says he sets before them life and death, the blessing and the curse. He laid out the rewards for obedience and the curses for unfaithfulness!
   3. Deuteronomy 30:19-20: “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”
   4. Their desire for life and to see good days was tied to their obedience and love for God.
   5. Obedience and Love go together! (I John 5:2-3)
2. II Timothy 1:1: We have a “promise of life” in Jesus Christ: both here and for eternity.
3. I Peter 3:8-12 *(Psalm 34:12-18)*: Knowing we have a “promise of life” we ought to desire life!
   1. If we desire life (KJV/NKJ: “love life;” ESV: “desire to love life”) and love to see “good days” there are things we need to do, attitudes we are to have.
   2. God has promised life now in Christ (godly living), and eternal life with Christ, and has done His part in providing the means for life.
   3. We need to have a desire of life and love to see good days to partake in the promises of God!
4. Do you desire life?
   1. To love life involves proper relationships with:
      1. Others *(vs. 8-11)*
      2. The Lord *(vs. 12)*
      3. COVID-19 Lockdown has…
         1. Made opportunities for families to spend more time together.
         2. Made opportunities for spouses to spend more time together.
         3. Made it possible to spend more time reading or studying God’s word, and do it together as a family.
5. If you desire life and love to see good days then love and obey the Lord with your whole heart!

#### Love the Brethren

* 1. I Peter 3:8: Four attributes saints are to have towards one another:
  2. “Be harmonious”
     1. Phil. 1:27: Christians are to stand firm having “one mind.” *(I Cor. 1:10)*
     2. *I Cor. 12:12-14, 27:* We are all members of Christ’s body, the church!
  3. “Sympathetic” (Have compassion)
     1. Rom. 12:15: We are to: “weep with those who weep.” *(Gal. 6:2: “Bear one another’s burdens”) – Col. 3:12-14: Put on compassion & love!*
     2. Sympathy and selfishness do not co-exist.
  4. “Brotherly, Kindhearted”
     1. Popular quote regarding family: “Familiarity breeds contempt.”
     2. We are not to have this attitude towards our spiritual family!
     3. I Jn. 4:21: To love God is to show love for the brethren *(Jn. 13:34),* as we cannot love God and hate our brother (I Jn. 4:20)
  5. “Humble in spirit”
     1. We are to have this attitude towards one another and to God *(Js. 4:6-8)*
     2. I Pet. 5:5: “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
  6. A loving relationship with the brethren is a great way to enjoy life!

#### Control the Tongue

* 1. I Peter 3:9: There is a correlation of controlling our tongues and loving life.
  2. There’s potential for the tongue to cause hurt to ourselves and others, for it is a flaming fire that can set our lives ablaze (Js. 3:5-6, 9-10).
     1. Think how much hurt we cause another by a careless use of the tongue!
        1. In the home: unfair criticism, unkind words, thanklessness!
        2. In life generally: gossip, swearing, mean words (reproach on church)
  3. I Peter 3:10: Must keep the tongue from evil. *(Js. 3)*
     1. So easy to sin with the tongue (Js. 1:19: Slow to speak – think about it)
     2. Cannot be tamed, but needs to be restrained (Js. 3:8-9)
  4. I Peter 3:10: Must not have lips of deceit.
     1. With our tongue we bless God and curse men, from the same mouth comes blessings and curses, and shouldn’t be that way! (Js. 3:9-10)
     2. Col. 4:6: Our speech is to be full of grace, as seasoned with salt.
     3. We are to be an encouragement to one another.
  5. Life is much more pleasant when we restrain our tongues and build each other up!

#### Turn Away From Evil

* 1. I Peter 3:11: To love life one must turn away from evil and do good!
  2. To do evil is the opposite of righteous (3:12)
     1. Heb. 5:14: By practice we can discern good from evil – we can know what it is.
     2. *Gal. 5:19-21:* Some things are specifically condemned (Deeds of the flesh).
  3. I Peter 3:11: One way to depart from evil is by “doing good.”
     1. The positive approach is to “do good.”
     2. Gal. 6:10: “While we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those of the household of faith.”
     3. Eph. 2:10: We are created for good works! (Titus 2:14)
     4. *Mt. 7:21-23:* Not just “good” as man sees fit, but “good” according to the will of God! Must be within Christ’s authority in all that we do! *(Col. 3:17)*
  4. To receive the “promise of life” *(II Tim. 1:1),* we need to “turn away from evil and do good!”

#### Seek Peace

* 1. I Peter 3:11: To desire life and see good days we need to “seek peace and pursue it!”
  2. Seek peace and pursue it!
     1. There are some who evidently encourage strife!
  3. Mt. 5:9: Jesus said it is possible to be “peacemakers” (With others).
  4. Rom. 5:1: In Christ *(Gal. 3:27: Saints)* we have peace with God! (Eph. 2:14-16)
  5. To have peace in this life is to know God and obey His Son, and thus have peace for eternity!

#### Pray to God

* 1. I Peter 3:12: The righteous are to pray to God, and He hears their prayers!
  2. The righteous are to pray!
     1. Prayer to God is a privilege; one the wicked (unrighteous) do not have!
  3. Phil. 4:6-7: Prayer is God’s antidote for anxiety. Peace is also found through prayer.
     1. Lk. 18:1: Prayer is the Christian’s safeguard against overwhelming discouragement. “…to pray and not to lose heart…”
     2. I Jn. 3:21-22; 5:14-15: God hears the prayers of the righteous and answers!
     3. We must trust Him in His answers, even when it is “No” (II Cor. 12:7-10).
     4. His answers go beyond what we can ask or think and are for our good (Eph. 3:20-21; Rom. 8:28)
  4. Prayer is a privilege of the Christian – Pray to God at all times! (I Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18)
  5. To truly desire and love life one must continually pray to God, the Giver of all good things! *(Js. 1:17)*

## Conclusion

1. The Israelites had prosperous years in the Promised Land, but ultimately because of their unfaithfulness they lost their land as they chose the curses Moses set before them *(Deut. 28-30)*
   1. *II Kings 17:6-23:* Israel (Northern Kingdom of 10 Tribes) was destroyed because they committed idolatry, even sacrificing their children!
   2. *II Chr. 36:14-21:* Judah went into captivity for 70 years because they followed all the abominations of the nations, and forsook the Lord and His word!
2. The “face of the Lord” is against those who do evil *(I Peter 3:12)*
   1. Is. 59:1-2: In Isaiah’s day sinful Israel had caused God to hide His face from the people.
   2. Sin created a barrier between man and God!
3. Psalm 34:11-22: A Psalm of David on loving life.
   1. God takes care of the righteous but condemns the wicked.
4. Life is opportunity! Every day is an opportunity to choose life or death (eternal), the blessing or the curse! ***Choose Life!***
5. Every day is another day for God to be glorified!
6. Do you desire life and love to see good days?
   1. Love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30)
   2. Remain obedient to God to enjoy life now and receive an eternal life with Him!
7. Desire life (in Christ are the promises and blessings of life) and love to see “good days!”
8. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. It is difficult to love life when there is promised punishment for disobedience. Repent and be baptized to inherit the reward!
9. If a Christian in error, it is difficult to love life knowing that to continue in sin is to expect judgment *(Heb. 10:26-27).* Repent and be renewed!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!