

LIVING OR JUST EXISTING?

Reality: *most people today do not really live, they merely exist.* To the question, *“What is the goal of today?”* the honest answer for most people would be, *“To get to tomorrow.”* Life becomes an endless pursuit of diversions designed to keep one’s attention off of how miserable they are. Pop culture continually creates new “therapies” for this problem, such as retail therapy, chocolate therapy, new car therapy, vacation therapy, and the list goes on and on.

Solomon tried all those too, and described his experience in the book of Ecclesiastes. The result of all his possessions and pleasures left him shouting, *“Meaningless! Utterly meaningless...Everything is meaningless.”* (Ecclesiastes 1:2) Now **there’s** a happy Scripture to start off your day, hmm?

Seriously, that **is** the logical outcome of trying to find fulfillment in what we can own or do: it simply does not work. **Jesus** said in **Luke 12:15**, *“a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions;”* and again in verse 23, *“Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.”*

But most ironically, the plague of mere existence and meaningless pursuits is running rampant in the American Church. Perhaps this explains all the self-help programs and books that are growing in popularity within the walls of Christendom, tools designed not to help one glorify Christ, but simply to become more self-fulfilled.

So what is life really all about? If that silver Cadillac Escalade and a trip to Paris in the springtime won’t fill the void, what will?

Only one thing: *the nearness of God.*

“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11)

God wants us to learn to **enjoy life by enjoying His presence every day.** He’s promised to never leave or forsake us (*Hebrews 13:5*); now it’s our part to draw near to Him (*read Psalm 73:28 and James 4:8*).

That’s the difference between **living** and just **existing**: as you learn to live in His presence, remembering that He’s with you and loves you,

then **LIFE IS GOOD!** I mean, REALLY good – not just a slogan on a hat or t-shirt, not just a momentary feeling that ends as soon as you've finished your ice cream cone. **GOOD** now, and **GOOD** for eternity – because **HE IS GOOD!**

I pray that the Lord blesses you with a *fresh awareness of His nearness*, and that you make time to build your friendship with Him every day.

Much love & many blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Matthew Casey