

# What is Your Life?

Bible Study | The Church of God International, Philippines |  
June 1, 2019



# Introduction

---



In the Epistle of James,  
the brother of Jesus, he wrote:

“What is your life?”



Few people, even Christians, have actually thought about this question. This is a personal question. Only two (2) persons can answer this properly – you and God.



We think and behave in a physical world. People tend to look at life through the lens of the world we live in.



Life can be a wreck or great, wretched or riches, dismal or grand, bleak or bright, pitiful or blissful, sad or cheery, or misery or glory. One will say life is a success, other will say it is a failure. One will say it is a blast, yet another will say it is a mess.



But, the question of "What is your life?" is not similar to "how is your life?," that we answer with either good or bad. The question is deeper and more profound as it touches the essence of existence.



In short, what we are truly asking is about the significance of our existence. Why do we exist? Why are we here? Why are we alive? What is our relevance? What is our purpose of being?



People spend their whole lives going through life without knowing the reason for their existence. Most of humanity thinks that carving out a name, an ample material living is all there is to the essence of life.



# Solomon's Experiment

---



King Solomon, the wisest man and king who ever lived, wrestled with the very question of  
“What is your life?”



Being the wisest king, with unlimited resources at his disposal, Solomon struggled, and ventured to discover the meaning, purpose and essence of life.

He exploited his kingship to the maximum with wisdom, pleasure and riches in a great effort to find the answer to life's most important question of existence.



King Solomon arrived at two (2) general conclusions; they are:

1. Life is mostly about vanity and nearly meaningless if there is no higher purpose beyond this physical existence. (Ecclesiastes 1)
2. Life does have a divine purpose. (Ecclesiastes 12)



# Solomon's 1<sup>st</sup> Conclusion

Life is vanity and utterly meaningless if there is no higher purpose beyond the physical existence. There is nothing better to do except to enjoy it while alive – eat, drink and be merry – for at the end of it all, everyone dies.



# Ecclesiastes 1

---



# Ecclesiastes 1

1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.  
“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”



The Hebrew word translated as 'meaningless' in the NIV is HABEL meaning "vapor". It denotes something transitory, futile, useless, unsatisfactory and emptiness. The word "vanity" used in the KJV is the better translation.

"Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity."



If this earthly life has no greater purpose beyond worldly pleasures, then this life is frustrating and is like a vapor that vanishes. Hence, life without a higher purpose is “vanity” —transitory.

Worldly wisdom, pleasure and wealth have no value and are worthless and fleeting like everything else.



# Ecclesiastes 1

3 What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?

4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.



# Ecclesiastes 1

6 The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

7 All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.



# Ecclesiastes 1

8 All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.



# Ecclesiastes 1

10 Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new”? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.

11 No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.



The vexation of life is it is short. The world lives on but man passes away. If this life of 70, 80, 100 or even 175 years (like Abraham) is all there is, then life is (seems) without meaning and purpose. Life is indeed a vapor and the vanity of vanities.



# Ecclesiastes 1

12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

13 I applied my mind **to study and to explore** by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind!



# Ecclesiastes 1

14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.



# Ecclesiastes 1

16 I said to myself, “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.”

17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.



The purpose of life is not found in the wisdom of this world. It cannot be found in philosophy or the sciences. The world offers no answer to the question of life.



# Solomon's 2<sup>nd</sup> Conclusion

There is a divine purpose to the existence of life and we are accountable to God for that life. Physical life in this world is fleeting, but not empty.

There is a grander purpose to life than what meets the eye. Life will have meaning and purpose when you find God.



# Ecclesiastes 12

---



# Ecclesiastes 12

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them” —

2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain;



# Ecclesiastes 12

3 when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim;

4 when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint;



# Ecclesiastes 12

5 when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets.

6 Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well,



# Ecclesiastes 12

7 and the dust returns to the ground it came from,  
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

8 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.  
“Everything is meaningless!”



Solomon concludes, and at the same time advises, that there is a divine purpose in life. For you to live a meaningful life, you need to seek God early on in your youth. Otherwise, you are just wasting your life to mundane and senseless living.



# Ecclesiastes 12

9 Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs.

10 The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.



# Ecclesiastes 12

11 The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.

12 Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.



# Ecclesiastes 12

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the **duty of all mankind**.

14 For God will bring every deed into **judgment**, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.



Solomon's great and profound conclusion and advice is this: Life is a gift from God. This life is neither futile nor empty. There is a greater divine purpose to your life and existence though it may appear to be transitory.



The whole duty of a man is to maintain a close relationship with God by abiding in His commands – for a day of judgment and reckoning is coming and the reward is with Him.



# Beyond the Physical



Few see the true essence of life beyond the physical realm. To be able to answer the question properly, we need to understand what life is.



The origin and source of life is God.  
Life is a gift – a wonderful gift from God.



# Ecclesiastes 5:18

“This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them.”



Life is a gift from God. To live - to experience life – is a gift! To be alive – to be conscious, active, and sustaining is to be God-like. This physical, temporal and mortal life is a foretaste of what it is to be like God.



Remember as written in Genesis, “we are created in the image and likeness of God.” We take on life in the image and likeness of our Creator. Even in earthly forms, we are endowed with God-like attribute of consciousness and awareness.



Temporal as this physical life maybe, man received a spark of divinity when God gave us life. The key word is LIVING. Life is God's gift to us and this gift can be perpetual, permanent and eternal.



# Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.



We have been too focused on how to live in this physical world that we neglect the more important one. Thus, Jesus declares in John 10:10

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”



This fullness of life is beyond this physical life. Again  
Jesus in His first ever recorded sermon at Mount of  
Olives declared:



# Matthew 6

---



# Matthew 6

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. **Is not life more than food**, and the body more than clothes?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?



# Matthew 6

27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

29 Yet I tell you that **not even Solomon** in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.



# Matthew 6

30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'



# Matthew 6

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33 But **seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.



## What Is Your Life?

Only two (2) beings can answer this question; one is the person who lives it – that is you, and the Being who created you – God.

King David pondered on this very question when he composed Psalm 8.



# Psalm 8

---



# Psalm 8

1 LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

2 Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.



# Psalm 8

3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?



# Psalm 8

5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:



# Psalm 8

7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,  
8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that  
swim the paths of the seas.

9 LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all  
the earth!



David pondered in wonderment but he had no answer.

The answer was provided by the inspired writer of the Letter to the Hebrews.



# Hebrews 2

---



# Hebrews 2

6 But there is a place where someone has testified:  
“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a  
son of man that you care for him?

7 You made them a little lower than the angels; you  
crowned them with glory and honor

8 and put everything under their feet.” In putting  
everything under them, God left nothing that is not  
subject to them. Yet at present we do not see  
everything subject to them.



# Hebrews 2

9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.



# Hebrews 2

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.



Now, we know that there is a higher purpose and a more significant meaning to our lives beyond this earthly existence. There is a glory that awaits us that we never knew, until now.



What is your life to  
God?



Your life is important to God because God is making you a son. People waste their lives on mundane worldly things because they do not see God's purpose of creation and the precious life they have been given.



## 2 Peter 1:4

“Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”



There is divine glory that await God's creation. God does not create fleeting, useless and meaningless life. God creates life to be eternal. Eternal life is the ability to share the divine nature of God in His kingdom.



Paul in Romans 8 brilliantly and insightfully gives the  
real essence of life:



# Romans 8

18 I consider that our **present sufferings** are not worth comparing with the **glory that will be revealed in us.**

In this verse Paul contrasted the worldly existence to that of the spiritual reality.



# Romans 8

19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope



# Romans 8

21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the **children of God**.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.



# Romans 8

23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our **adoption to sonship**, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in this hope we were saved.



# Romans 8

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.



# Summation

---



We opened the Bible study with the profound paradox posited by James. We possess life and we live it, but most of us do not know, or fully understand what it is truly about.



# James 4

13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.”

14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”



The only source of true understanding about life is from the Author of Life. Our lives are not designed to end with this life. Our aim is the life that is to come – the glorious eternal one. This is what Jesus meant when He said: seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.



What now governs us after knowing this tremendous  
and eye-opening truth about life?

Paul has this encouragement for us in Colossians 3.



# Colossians 3

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.



# Colossians 3

4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then **you also will appear with him in glory.**

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your **earthly nature**: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.



# Colossians 3

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices



# Colossians 3

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in **knowledge in the image of its Creator**.

11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as **God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved**, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.



# Colossians 3

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.



# Colossians 3

16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



It encourages everyone of us to reset our life's priorities. To live, not as the world lives but to live for Christ as the chosen children of God should.



# What is your life?

We said only two persons can answer this question,  
one is the you who lives it,  
and the other is God who gives it.



# What is your life?

To God, your life is precious.

God is making you a son, a daughter.

He is giving you the life of divine glory to become a member of the Kingdom of God.



# John 1

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the **right to become children of God**—

13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born of God**.



# What is your life to you?

Only you can answer the question...

We hope your answer is the answer that God wants  
you to have!



# What is your life?

Your life is the life of a potential son of God.  
You are an heir of God and co-heir with His Son.



# Galatians 4

4 But when the appropriate time had come, God sent out his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we may be **adopted as sons** with **full rights**.

6 And because **you are sons**, God sent the **Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, who calls “*Abba! Father!*”

7 *So you are no longer a slave **but a son**, and if you are a son, then **you are also an heir** through God.*



# Romans 8

16 The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are **God's children**.

17 And if children, then heirs (namely, **heirs of God and also fellow heirs with Christ**)—if indeed we suffer with him so we may also **be glorified with him**.



Your life is meant to be the  
life of a potential son of  
God!



Live it for the glory of  
God



(whatever it takes...)

END

