



The Encourager

Harris Temple COGIC Outreach Ministry

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“Getting the Best out of Life”

According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue: and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness, And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:3-8)

Life takes on many forms. It is also described in various ways. Someone described life in this fashion: We rarely stop and actually consider LIFE. It is something that, after all, we have, use, and live. The business, that busy-ness, of life is so all-consuming that we almost never stop to examine the package that the gift is in. Unless threatened, life is rarely considered. Like a child ripping away at a hammered gold-leaf wrapped package to get at the plastic toy inside, we generally look at things, and not the substance of the thing, life itself.

I certainly hope my readers think of life in a different perspective. Life is the greatest gift God has given us. No price can be put on the value of life. *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)* When God the Creator breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, He gave mankind the precious life that only God can give.

Satan is fooling so many people that when their backs are against the wall, and seemly all hope is gone, they think the easy way out is to end it all by taking what God has given - “life.” Don’t be deceived; there is life after death. We all have to appear before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account of the deeds done in our bodies.

One song writer saw life in a different light, he wrote, “Life is a many splendor things.” Life is to be enjoyed, and lived to the fullest. Anna Jameson wrote - The bread of life is love, the salt of life is work, the sweetness of life is poesy, and the water of life is faith.

Webster denotes; life is a living being; the activities of a given time or in a given setting and the people who takes part in them. The period of flourishing, usefulness, etc; period during which anything lasts.

Life is filled with choices. The choices we make determine our destiny or well-being. Some choices lead to the path of happiness and fulfillment, while other choices can be devastating with fear and anxiety. The choices we make determine our outcome in life. We can live life to the fullest or become prey to the valley of despair.

Happiness like so many feelings or emotions or conditions, is a matter of choice. It is also a state of mind that can be created, generated, and sustained. *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* (Philippians 4:8)

Character and conduct begin in the mind; our actions are affected by the things we dwell on in our thoughts. In the previous verse, Paul cautions his readers to concentrate on things that will result in right living, and in God's peace. *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.* (Proverbs 23:7b) You become what you think. If you think positive, then positive things will come your way. On the other hand, if you think negative then negative things will happen. If you believe in your heart you can accomplish a certain goal, you will put forth an effort to do it.

We are going to face some challenging times, that's a part of life. Our attitude determines our happiness or misery over our circumstances. We can shrink from them or we can move toward them with confidence. When life's circumstances seem to overwhelm us, thank God and take courage. Courage is more than simply a physical action. It is a state of mind.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13) It is important to note that the emphasis is not so much on achievement as it is on willingness to allow Christ's power to sustain us in difficulty and scarcity, and to enhance the enjoyment of abundance, and prosperity. Such faith is a stimulant to believe for all Christ's sufficiency in facing all life's circumstances.

We too, can face life's difficulties because He has given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue. It's so wonderful to know Jesus. Those who know Him, He has given us exceeding great and precious promises that we might be partakers of His divine nature. He also gave us space to add on: faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.

There are two forces on life's journey. We must make a choice. Jesus said in John 10:10—*The thief cometh not, but to steal, kill, and destroy, I am come, that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* Satan comes daily to steal, kill, and destroy. The line is clearly drawn. On the opposite side is Jesus with, goodness, life, and plenty of all that is necessary for life. He gives abundantly life--superabundance, excessive, overflowing, surplus, over and above, more than enough, profuse, and extraordinary.

As you surrender your total self to Jesus, (your mind, body, soul, and spirit), you can get the best out of life. You can receive healing for the body and the inner man. Even the pain and misery from broken relationships and wounded spirits can be healed. He will also meet your material needs. His prosperity brings eternal life. Stop to think about it. What else is there worth having? Jesus said that He came to give life - not just ordinary existence, but life in fullness, abundance, and prosperity.

And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else and my people shall never be ashamed. (Joel 2:26-27)

February is a very special month. So many of us look forward to Valentine's Day. This is the day for us to remember those that are dear to our hearts. The size of the gift doesn't matter. A card, a box of candy, a telephone call, or whatever someone especially likes is sufficient. It's a good time to take that special person in your life out to dinner and relax in a different atmosphere.

Relationship is very important. In order to have a good relationship with another person you must spend some time with them. You get to know each other by communicating. It is simple truth that practically nothing can be accomplished or achieved in this life without the ability to communicate.

Someone once said, How can we communicate love? I think three things are involved: We must reach out to a person, make contact. We must listen with the heart, be sensitive to the other's needs. We must respond to a language that the person can understand. Many of us do all the talking. We must learn to listen and to keep on listening.

I realize the writer was speaking of a person. But what about Jesus? He longs for a relationship with us. He wants us to reach out to Him and make contact. Communication is a two-way conversation. We can't do all the talking, but listen to what the Lord is saying. The Lord is speaking, do you hear what He is saying? *Thou wilt show me the path of life, in thy presence is fulness of joy,; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.* (Psalm 16:11)

**I hope these few words will help you get the best out of life.
God Bless You is my prayer.**