

THE WAY OF LIFE

There are so many things in our world that are in turmoil that it can be very disturbing and unsettling. It's causing many people today to even wonder what life on this planet all about.

Let's look at the scriptures, which are God's statements of reality, to try to shed some light on this question.

In Matthew 7.13 Jesus said

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Why is it so easy for so many to go the way of destruction?

I believe the answer is, because it's our natural existence apart from God, who is the source of Life.

It's our life in this world, which is the result of man falling from God's presence.

We don't have to do anything to accept it, we were born into it.

Millions of people live their natural lives every day and accumulate a new set of experiences to add to their life, while moving closer and closer to their death.

Our experience in this world conditions us to think that our life is the sum total of everything we've been through plus our current set of circumstances.

But if this world's conditioning is actually true, and our lives can be plainly visible to anyone who has eyes, why did Jesus say, only a few find it?

I believe that Jesus was talking about another kind of life.

The word translated as life in this scripture is the Greek word Zoe. It's definition is, "life as God has it."

There is a world of difference between God's eternal life and our natural fallen life that we inherited from Adam and Eve.

In Isaiah 55.8 God says that,

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

The Gospel is not a natural religious effort to modify and improve our natural lives. It's the supernatural work of God to restore us to our originally created life and oneness with God.

Jesus didn't die on the cross for our sins so that we would be merely forgiven sinners trying to be better people.

He came to make a way for us to be redeemed back into the family of God and become citizens of God's kingdom.

God wasn't looking for a reformed version of our old natural life inherited from Adam and Eve.

He didn't want to improve our natural lives. He crucified them with Christ so that He could give us His eternal life.

Jesus said, unless we die to our old natural life we can never possess His eternal life.

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Ephesian believers to rid yourselves of the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Romans 8 declares that the mind set on the flesh is death.

But it goes on to say, that the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

Let's take a moment and look at the reality of what life actually is.

John 1.1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

In John 14.6 Jesus also declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life"

The way that leads back to God's eternal life and oneness with Him is truly narrow, but it is available by faith in God's incredible work to anyone who will believe and accept it.

Let's take a minute and go back to the beginning.

Genesis 1.26

God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the earth....."

In the garden, God was man's life, and the supply of everything he needed to sustain that life. God commissioned man to rule the earth from his oneness with God and manifest God's eternal life to this entire planet.

Satan lied to Eve by telling her that independence from God would make them wise, create absolute freedom for them, and make them like God. She and Adam both believed the lie and were cast from the garden. Where they lived a cursed existence away from God's presence. They struggled to scratch out an existence in this world by their own sweat and effort, without God's life and His continual supply.

This is the life that everyone on this planet inherited from them. We all got the same life.

God's plan from the beginning was eternal fellowship with man. So, because of this separation of His children from Him, God initiated His supernatural plan to restore them back to Himself. It's called the Gospel, the good news.

He came to Earth as a man, born of a woman and put all of mankind in Christ. He crucified Him, buried Him, raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His own right hand in complete oneness with God.

So, that whatever happened to Christ, also happened to us.

The gospel is not a religion. It's the supernatural act of God to restore us to oneness with him. He's the only one in the universe who could do this, and he did it for us before we even asked. He has made it available to every person on the planet by faith.

God stated in John chapter one, that whoever would receive Christ as their Savior and believe in, trust in, and rely on His supernatural work on their behalf, would be reborn as children of God.

There is no religion required, just a complete childlike trust in His love for us.

In Psalm 16 David said, You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

David had a revelation that the path of life is the path into God's presence, not the improvement of our natural circumstances.

In God's presence is the source and the complete supply of the life that we were created to live. There is unbroken fellowship with God which satisfies every desire in the heart of man.

Jesus told the woman at the well, whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst again, but it will become a well of water within him springing up to eternal life.

Every generation since the fall of man has tried to fill up, in a myriad of ways, what is lacking in this natural life separated from God. Their efforts have been futile and unsatisfying.

Jesus came to demonstrate God's incredible love for us, deliver us from this natural life that can only produce death, and restore us to the life that God originally created for us.

In Psalms 36.7 David declares,

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house, And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.

For with You is the fountain of life.....

If we really want life in this world, we have to go to the source.

This is God's testimony, He has given us His eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has that life.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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