



## **Bible Study**

May 6, 2020

Facilitator: *Co-Pastor, Francena McMullen*

Pastor: *Marvin Avant*

### **Topic: The Christian Perspective on Life**

Is life the air that we breathe? Or is life pure energy? From a Christian perspective one would say that life is action, faith, belief, and relationships. Life is full of emotion, miracles and facts. Life is growth, change, and experience. Life is intelligent, sorrowful, and full of regrets. Life is a story filled with forgiveness, hate, love, disappointment, discouragement, and questions. But what is the real purpose and meaning to the life we have?

The word of God reminds us what life is! In sad moments of despair, confusion, and fear, God's word comes alive and Jesus is the one who turns our mourning into laughter.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." ([John 14:6](#))

Jesus is the air that we breathe and it's Jesus who gives us our daily dose of energy. For in Him, we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28.)

We live in a culture that sells us happiness and advertises good life to those who can afford it. Money and things are for those who deserve it. Culture defines life as a time and place to get the best of everything.

A Christian's perspective about life is very different from our culture. We see life as an opportunity to love others and to serve God faithfully. Jesus is our life.

So, what is the Christian perspective on life and how does it differ from that of the non-Christian? In a word, the Christian perspective is transcendent, whereas the typical non-Christian view is secular.

As the British Christian writer, Harry Blamires, expressed it,

A prime mark of the Christian mind is that it cultivates the eternal perspective. That is to say, it looks beyond this life to another one. It is supernaturally orientated, and brings to bear upon earthly considerations the fact of Heaven and the fact of Hell...

The Christian mind sees human life and human history held in the hands of God. It sees the whole universe sustained by his power and his love. It sees the natural order as dependent upon the supernatural order... It sees this life as an inconclusive experience, preparing us for another; this world as a temporary place of refuge, not our true and final home.

...Modern secular thought ignores the reality beyond this world. It treats this world as "The Thing". Secularism is, by its very nature, rooted in this world...Secularism puts its trust in this life and makes earthly happiness and well-being its primary concern.

This is the reason the Scriptures identify non-Christians as those who "dwell on the earth" (or, as the NIV translates such passages as Revelation 11:10, they who are "the inhabitants of the earth.") This earth is their home, this life is all they take into consideration; in the words of the apostle Paul, they are "without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12.) In striking contrast to this, the Christian is reminded that he is an alien in this present world (1 Peter 1:1,) his citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:21,) and his whole perspective on life is foreign to the thinking of the world (1 Corinthians 2:14.)

Dr. Blamires goes on to ask, "Do we, as Christians...mentally inhabit a world with a Heaven above it and a Hell beneath it; a world in which man is called to live daily, hourly, in contact with the God whom neither time nor space can limit?" (p. 76)

This Bible study is based on the apostle Paul's teachings to live a Christ-centered life as the one true formula for the ultimate life and the apostle Peter's teaching

in 1 Peter 4; the Christian's radical lifestyle, in comparison to the lifestyle of the world.

### **What Is the Christian Perspective about Life After Death?**

As Christians we desire to do life well here on earth and sometimes, we overdo it by putting our wants first. We get concerned when things don't work out the way we plan. We let financial obligations get the best of us when our paychecks are less than what we want, or we let overspending empty our pockets. We overcommit and put hours upon hours into pointless things.

As humans we sometimes let the brand of our clothes or our type of car define us. We make ourselves sicker by worrying about the doctor's report. From time to time we all struggle with jealousy. We find ourselves working extra hours to have the best paying job. We condemn ourselves as failures when we can't live up to our lofty expectations. All of this is such a waste of time, because at the end of our life, none of this will matter.

All the things we gain from this world are dust in the wind. Nothing here on earth will last forever. This world is not our home and there is more to life after death. We will be going to our real home to be with Jesus and all our loved ones. We are here temporarily to leave a legacy, serve others, and to share the gospel.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

**Be blessed and live your best life in Christ!**