



... Heart to Heart ...

Jesus said, “...*I came that they might have life, and have it in abundance.*” (John 10:10) We believe in life after death and Jesus has secured our place for us. What we need to understand is **life before death!**

The Hebrew writer tells us of those who died in faith (Heb. 11:13-16). They were “*strangers and exiles on earth.*” They were “*seeking a country of their own.*” What we fail to recognize is what it means to be strangers, exiles and seeking a country that is really ours. We know we are going to die, but we don’t take seriously our efforts as strangers and exiles. We burden ourselves with “*things*” and “*countless obligations*” of this world, a place that’s not our home. They zap us of our energy and focus, so we fail in **life before death!**

Jesus gave us life, His life, not life as we see in humans. We turn to human life, allowing the world to shape our thinking, our ideas and approaches. We wear the world’s styles. Some moan and groan from morning to evening about every thing wrong. Some can’t handle difficult situations without thinking the worst is going to happen to them! It’s all gloom and doom with little relief. In all this, the life of Jesus within us gets lost and forfeited.

A life that fritters away time, that burdens their being with *things* and *obligations* they have placed themselves under, is a life that will miss the glories of Christ. Little advancement is made in life, Christ’s life, because the death of the world, the pleasures of the world, takes us captive so we never find **life before death!** What will we find after death?

“*Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*” (Eph. 5:15-16) Those with the life of Christ, live in that life, not wasting time or shrinking back, but they move forward because God is in them, with them, and is the center of their thinking and involvement. They recognize Jesus has provided them with something others don’t possess, so they wrap their lives around Him. Whatever this life holds, God is in it with them, to take them through the wilderness as they journey each day looking for that better country. God is not ashamed to be called their God!

God is with us, as we began our journey in Jesus, in the middle of our journey and to the end of it. We have somewhere to go, while those of the world are trying to go somewhere. We need to put forth more effort and desire toward the things of God, letting go of the things and weights we place on ourselves, running to every task with our families and individually, rather than grasping the life of Christ, expending ourselves for His name. Are we really living **life before death?** Think about it!!!

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