

FREEDOM FROM GUILT IN CHRIST

Only in Christ can a sinner escape guilt, but without forgiveness our sins drive us to despair. Like Cain, our sin and its punishment is greater than we can bear (Genesis 4:13). But God will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:7). He will remember our sins no more (Hebrews 10:17). They are "blotted out" (Acts 3:19) and continually cleansed, as we walk with God in the light (1 John 1:7).

FREEDOM FROM WORRY

A Christian has no reason for fear, dread, or anxiety. Dread is premeditated fear like one feels before going to the dentist. Anxiety is bottled up terror inside of humans like that which causes an animal to run and scream. Christ says to be anxious in nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication to let our requests be made known to God. Then the peace from God which passes all understanding will guard our thoughts and hearts in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6, 7). Our cares are all cast upon Him who careth for us (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever bothers us bothers Him. He wants the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts (Colossians 3:15).

DEATH ABOLISHED

A Christian has no fear of death. He sorrows not as those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Jesus released us from the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14, 15). He shined upon those who sat in darkness and the shadow of death (Luke 1:79). Paul said for him to live was Christ and to die was gain (Philippians 1:21). To depart to be with Christ was to him "far better" (Philippians 1:23). Death is greater happiness for a Christian.

ONE THING IN LIFE

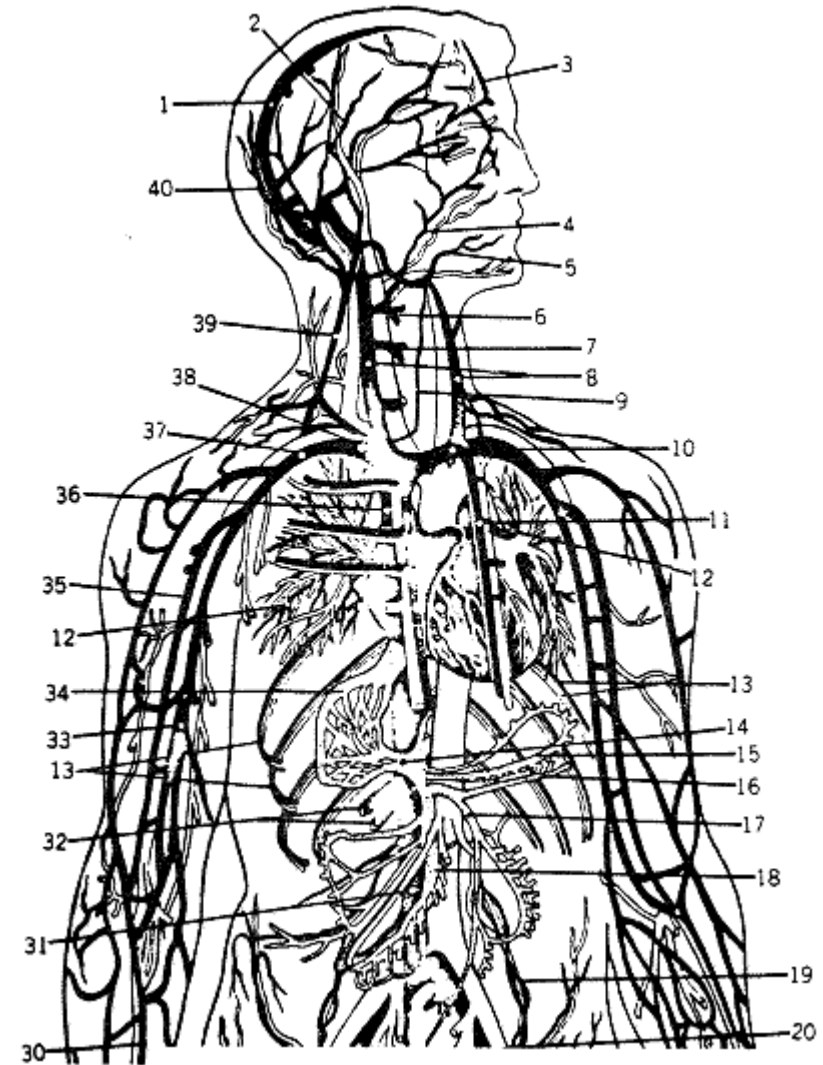
A Christian has purpose in life—something to live for worth dying for. He is never bored. Life is always full of joy and reward. He says, "This one thing I do" (Philippians 3:13). He seeks first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). His life is not vacant and empty, it is full of meaning and purpose. He knows that the God-shaped vacuum in his life can only be filled by companionship with God. He lives for others instead of for self. True happiness and purpose in life come only to those living God's kind of life.

THE CHOICE TO LIVE OR DIE IS OURS

God sets before every man life and death (Deuteronomy 30:19). There are two roads in the world, one leads to destruction, the other leads to life (Matthew 7:13,14). "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, but he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth in him" (John 3:36). Faith in Christ and baptism into Christ to put on Christ makes one a child of God (Galatians 3:26, 27). In Christ one is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). He has all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). His name is written in the book of life (Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27). He has real life both now and forever and can never die.

Do you love life? Will you enter into life with God in Christ?

Do You Love Life?



Here and Hereafter!

DO YOU LOVE LIFE?

by Jim Massey

Do you believe in life? Is there life in your body? Then you must logically believe in God. Life comes only from life before it. Non-living matter cannot bring forth what it does not itself have to pass on. Life in all plants, animals, birds, fish, and men comes from pre-existent life. There are no exceptions.

LIFE COMES ONLY FROM LIFE

Where then did the life in a tree come from? From the life in a seed before it, which came from life in a tree before it, which came from life in a seed before it. Trace this lineage back to the first tree, where did its life come from? From God, who is the source and giver of all life. To be scientific, we must believe that life only comes from life. All life had to come from original life—God.

LIFE AS ITS DESIGNER CREATED IT

God gives to all life and breath and all things (Acts 17:25). He is the creator and sustainer of life. No one else is qualified to define life properly. Life's real meaning cannot be understood apart from God. If a person loves life and wants the most from it, he must view life as God views it.

GOD'S KIND OF LIFE

If a man loves life and wants to see good days, he must turn away from evil and do good (1 Peter 3:10, 11). As life's only interpreter, God describes His kind of life as the only one worth living. Evil is harmful, godliness is good. God's will is for man's happiness, but evil is poison which will destroy real life.

NOT BIOLOGICAL BUT SPIRITUAL

The true nature of life is not physical but spiritual. When biological life is gone, man's real life goes on. In God we live, move, and have our being (Acts 17:28). Life without God is shallow and animal-like. Just as God is not material or physical, the life He has given man is far deeper and better than natural life. God's kind of life is spiritual.

GOD'S MEANING OF DEATH

"Thou shalt surely die" was the warning God gave man about sin (Genesis 2:17). God is immortal (undie-able) and alone has immortality dwelling in Him (1 Timothy 6:16). To sin is to cut oneself off from the source of spiritual life—to die. Fellowship with God is life, separation from God is death. Sin separates between man and God (Isaiah 59:2.) Death passed upon all men, because all have sinned (Romans 5:12). Sin when it is full grown brings forth death (James 1:15).

DEAD WHILE LIVING

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). All who sin surely die (Genesis 2:17). Though they live on physically, they are dead while they live (1 Timothy 5:6). Sinners are dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). They will live on (or exist) even after physical life stops, but they are dead because they are separated from the life that comes from God (Ephesians 4:18).

CHRIST'S DEATH IS THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

Because sin brings spiritual death and separates man from life with God, the removal of sin restores life with God. Because God created man for companionship with Himself (Leviticus 26:12), He gave His Son to pay the penalty for man's sin. Jesus died painfully and shamefully on the cross and was even separated from God because He was bearing the sins of the world (Matthew 27:46). His death is the believer's life.

PASSING FROM DEATH TO LIFE

In Him was life (John 1:4). He was the Word of life sent to show man eternal life from the Father (1 John 1:1, 2). He said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26). He is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12). Believers in Christ have passed out of death into life (John 5:24).

MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE

Man's greatest obstacle to real life is preoccupation with material life. Jesus asked, "Is not the life more than meat and the body than raiment?" (Matthew 6:25). He said that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from God (Matthew 4:4). Man's life consists not in the abundance of his possessions (Luke 12:15). Without Jesus, who is the bread of life (John 6:35), worldly living is shallow, bleak, and hopeless. Christians consider Christ as their life (Colossians 3:4), and the life they live is Christ living in them (Galatians 2:20).

ETERNAL KIND OF LIFE, NOT AMOUNT

Eternal life is a quality, not a quantity. Sinners separated from God will live as long as Christians, but their existence will be a torment called eternal death (Romans 6:23, Matthew 25:41, 46). It is life eternal to know God and Christ (John 17:3). Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light in the gospel (2 Timothy 1:10). Companionship with God with sins forgiven in Christ is the only real meaning of life.

HAPPINESS HERE AND HEREAFTER

The Christian life is the happiest life both now and forever. It has the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come (1 Timothy 4:8). Christians receive a hundred-fold now in this world and in the world to come eternal life (Mark 10:30). It is a tragic mistake to think that one must give up real pleasure in the present life in order to receive the life to come. Instead, one receives the fullness of fellowship with God both here and here-after.

REJOICE IN THE LORD

If God is the source of life, He is also the source of happiness. There is no true joy apart from a life with God. The pleasures of sin are but for a season (Hebrews 11:25). The best that this world has to offer does not really satisfy. God has made us for Himself, and we are restless until we rest in Him. Genuine joy is from within and cannot be provided nor disturbed by outward conditions. Paul rejoiced "in the Lord," even though he was in a Roman prison (Philippians 4:4).