

LIVING THE "GOOD LIFE"

Galatians 5:22-23

- *"The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."* (Galatians 5:22-23)
- **People often think that the "good life" is about looking good, doing good, having the "goods" or finding "someone good."**
- **According to the Bible, "goodness" means "being and doing good."**
- *"Then God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was very good!"* (Genesis 1:31)
- **Living a "life of goodness" involves fulfilling the purposes God has for our lives in ways that bless Him and benefit others.**
- *"He (God) has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."* (Ephesians 2:10)
- **The Christian lifestyle is to be a lifestyle of goodness and good works.**
- **God didn't save us because of our goodness (Romans 3:10, 23); but so we would live godly lives and be involved in good works for Him and others.**
- ***How do we become more of a "godly good person" so we can live the real "good life" God has called us to live?***

Living The "Good Life" Involves:

LIVING BY BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

- *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- **To live the "good life" God's way we have to learn and live by God's Word.**
- *"Your commandments give me understanding . . . Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."* (Psalm 119:104-105)

- **It's not enough to own a Bible or have one on our phone or even learn the Bible; we have to put the principles of the Bible into practice in our lives.**
- *"How can a young person stay pure? By obeying Your word (O God). . . . I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You."* (Psalm 119:9, 11)
- ***What steps do I need to take to better live by Biblical principles?***

Living The "Good Life" Involves:

GUARDING OUR HEART AND <u>MIND</u>

- *"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."* (Proverbs 4:23)
- Jesus - *"From within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you."* (Mark 7:21-23)
- **Most people are careless about what they allow into their heart and mind.**
- *"Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."* (Philippians 4:8)
- **When bombarded with junk from television, social media, the internet or from other people, we need to refocus our mind on good and godly things.**
- ***What steps can I take to better guard my heart and mind?***

Living The "Good Life" Involves:

DETERMINING TO LIVE BY GODLY <u>CONVICTIONS</u>

- **A conviction is different from an opinion or belief; it is a commitment to a standard of living.**
- *"Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good."* (Romans 12:9)
- **Goodness demands some gutsy convictions – taking a stand against some things and taking a stand for godly values.**
- *"Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness . . ."* (2 Corinthians 7:1)
- ***What are some non-negotiables when it comes to my beliefs and values?***

Living The "Good Life" Involves:

DEVELOPING THE COURAGE TO BE <u>DIFFERENT</u>

- *"Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people."* (Philippians 2:15)
- **We live in a depraved world; so to be good we're going to have to be willing to be different from others in our attitudes, ambitions and actions.**
- *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world . . ."* (Romans 12:2)

- Paul - *"I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return."* (Philippians 1:10)
- ***In what areas of life do I need to have the courage to be different?***

Living The "Good Life" Involves:

SERVING GOD BY <u>SERVING</u> OTHERS

- *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, <u>so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago</u>."* (Ephesians 2:10)
- **The Lord has called all of His people to be involved in serving Him and others with our time, spiritual gifts, talents, etc.**
- *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10)
- ***Am I using my God-given abilities and life experiences to serve God and help others, or am I wasting those abilities and experiences?***
- *"Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- *"He (God) will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other Christians."* (Hebrews 6:10)
- **See TEAM DAY Insert**

- **Living the "good life" also requires staying involved with other Christians in small groups and worship services (Hebrews 10:24-25, Proverbs 17:17).**
- **Jesus dedicated Himself to "doing good" by helping and serving others (Acts 10:28), and we need to do the same.**
- *"Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."* (Galatians 6:9)