

LIFE IS WORTH LIVING

PHIL. 2:15-16

When redeemed man comes to know his eternal worth he comes to know also that life IS worth living. It is a tragic day in any ones life when he concludes, "Well what's the use.. life is not worth living."

When times are darkest the Christian shines as one of the sons of God. As Paul puts it "Holding forth the word of life."

- a. He has worked out his own salvation with fear and trembling.
- b. He has yielded his will to the Higher will.
- c. He takes fresh hold on the WORD of life.

RESULT

Others seeing the lesser light of this human example find their way by this lesser light to Jesus the source of all light.

An awful night of sin had fallen on the world.....

Men are loosing faith
Letting go old convictions
They break established traditions
They give up holy ideals
They surrender to defeatism

Two windows open:

1. Window of sin as we see above
2. Window of light from God

God not only needs adults as lights but also our youth. And many young people are giving themselves to God for full time service.

So that as Paul said, "As sons of God ye shine as lights in the world holding forth the word of life."

What kind of an example of this was Paul?

1. He had known the worse in life but still he lived in the best. Table in presence of enemies.

2. He had seen sin conquer but still looked for the triumph of right.
3. He had been beset by the opposition of men but remained loyal to the mission of Christ.
4. He would not let the darkness get him down but arose above the gloom.
5. He would not be overcome by things as they were but let his light shine to make them what they ought to be.

A LIGHT FOR THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

- I. Life is worth living when we accept it as a gift from God, a gift full of meaning and possibilities.

When a noted artist committed suicide an editor had this to say, "He was a successful artist with editors eager to snatch the paper from beneath his pencil...but he found life more empty than men in a bread line."

EMPTY...WHAT A WORD.

EMPTY BARREL....EMPTY PURSE....EMPTY PEW....EMPTY HOME
EMPTY CHAIR....EMPTY LIFE.

But there was an empty grave and because of that we may have FULL lives.

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God thinks of us and places His providences around us which means that we count for something. When a man feels that he counts for something he can keep his chin up.

God is our FRIEND. We should be His friend all of our lives. With such fellowship we can be lights in the world holding forth the word of life. Robert Louis Stephenson did not meet James Chalmers till he was very old and said, "I have come to love you too late." We come to love God too late to do much good many times. Young people be sure to come to love Him with a mighty love early in your lives..He needs your love early.

2. Life is worth living when there is a holy cause.

It is not enough to know what to live for, one must know also what to die for. They say death is not hard but the hard thing is coming up to death. Young lady took a different view. The doctors said one week would be the longest she could possibly live. She called her family together and said, "Let's make my last week the very best of all."

God always has a holy cause and will guide us into it if we will let Him. Something else...there will always be some thing left undone unless we DO what He reveals as our task.

3. Life is worth living when trouble is overcome. Dr. Scherer speaks of those who have woven life's defects into battle flags and made them to wave in the winds of misfortune.

Victorious living is determined by the way one faces calamity.

There is a sweet story about the violin maker who got his wood from the north side of the tree. There the north winds have blown strong and cold. The great Heavenly Musician has brought the sweetest melodies out of troubled lives.

4. Life is worth living when we make it worth going on. The late Clarence Darrow told a young man that he should chuck life for it was not worth going on. We feel that under the scum in which some claim that life is not worth going on that there is smouldering the feeling that it is worth going on.

Dorothy Parker has written about that mixed sense of futility and need as she says:

"THERE IS LITTLE IN TAKING OR GIVING
THERE IS LITTLE IN WATER OR WINE
THIS LIVING THIS LIVING THIS LIVING
WAS NEVER A PROJECT OF MINE.

OH HARD IS THE STRUGGLE AND SPARE IS THE GAIN OF THE ONE
AT THE TOP.

FOR ART IS A FORM OF CATHARSIS AND LOVE IS A PERMANENT
FLOP.

AND WORK IS THE PROVINCE OF CATTLE AND REST FOR A CLAM IN
THE SHELL.

SO I AM THINKING OF THROWING THE BATTLE..WOULD YOU KINDLY
DIRECT ME TO HELL?"

But listen there is courage for the one who follows Him who
never retreated. there is faith for living when one is kept
by Him who never lost faith. There is hope for tomorrow
when one belongs to Him Who is the resurrection and the
life.

LET US THEN BE SONS OF GOD SHINNING AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD
HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE.



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