

HOW DO YOU VIEW LIFE?

Text: James 4:13-17

INTRO: James, in seeking to impress upon his readers the brevity of life, asks the rhetorical question, "What is your life?"

Someone has said, "Life is what you make it." There's quite a bit of truth to that statement as well. Today I want to ask a related question: How do you view life? It can be many things to different people. Illustrate with a river: a place to fish, swim, bend down & scoop up a drink of cool, refreshing water, a system of natural air conditioning, a picture to paint, rapids to ride, a reminder of battles fought or good times gone by--to some a place to dump sewage.

I. SOME VIEW LIFE AS A TIME TO GATHER ALL THE EARTHLY GOODS WE CAN POSSIBLY GATHER.

READ LUKE 12:15-19

Bless the Lord, O my soul; & all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, & forget not all His benefits... (Psa 103:1-2).

READ GENESIS 12:1-3; ECCL. 5:10-13

II. SOME VIEW LIFE AS A TIME TO SEEK CONSTANT PLEASURE.

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 1 Tim 5:6, walking corpses

For all the Athenians & the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. (Acts 17:21).

You have lived on earth in pleasure & luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. (JS 5:5).

III. SOME VIEW LIFE AS SIMPLY SOMETHING TO BE ENDURED, TOLERATED. "I didn't ask to be born."

READ I TIMOTHY 6:6-8

In the morning you shall say, "Oh, that it were evening!" And at evening you shall say, "Oh, that it were morning!"... (Deut 28:67).

IV. NOW, LET'S LOOK AT SOME PROPER VIEWS OF LIFE.

A. Life is a gift from God. Acts 17:14-25, 28; JS 1:17

B. Life is a learning experience.

READ PHIL 4:8-13

Heb 5:8 READ JAMES 1:2-8

C. Life is a time of preparation.

Amos 4:12

He will also go before Him in the spirit & power of Elijah "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children" & the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

(LK 1:17)

And that servant who knew his master's will & did not prepare himself or do according to his will shall be beaten with many stripes. (LK 12:47).

READ MARK 10:29-30

CONCLUSION: What is your life? What is life to you? Are you using your time wisely, making an investment in everlasting life?

Exton, PA, August 11, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 21, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 14, 2003