

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?