

THERE IS A WAY TO A BETTER LIFE

Luke 12:31, 34

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Every person has his/her dreams of what he/she might be and what he/she might have materially some day thinking that if only he/she could have that dream then everything would be alright and they could "live happily ever after..." Just what is a "better life?" Better than what one has at the present? Life is full of ups and downs and one never really knows what to expect next. No matter what kind of life a person has, it will change sooner or later and not always for the good. There is a solution! There is a way to having a better life and Jesus is that solution. Jesus is that way to a better life.

I. JESUS WILL CORRECT ONE'S "MISCONCEPTIONS" ABOUT LIFE

1. "The Good Life" means different things to different people:
 - For some it is having all the material goods one wants.
 - For others it is having and enjoyable, pleasurable life.
 - For still others it is being popular, "looked up to" by others.
2. Most people think generally the same way about the "good life:"
 - "The Good Life" to most people is all about happiness and peace.
 - Most people think that material prosperity, pleasure and popularity will be the "Good Life."
 - A close look at those wealthy, high-living, famous people reveals that they are not living the "good life" for they are extremely unhappy and lack inner peace.
3. The answer to all the misconceptions about the "good life" is Jesus:
 - Jesus taught that there is more to life than material things, being popular and having a so-called peace - Luke 12:15
 - Jesus offers a peace that the things of the world just cannot give and a joy that is complete and full o- John 14:27; 15:11

II. JESUS CAN LEAD ONE TO HAVING A BETTER LIFE

1. Jesus identifies and removes the real problems:
 - What is it that causes so much unhappiness and deprives one of having inner peace?
 - Is it things like immorality, theft, murder?
 - Is it things like coveting, deceit, envy and pride?
 - These things do indeed destroy families, friendships and things but are they the ONLY cause?
 - Jesus can reveal the real cause of so much distress and unhappiness in a person's life:
 - Jesus said that the source is the sinful heart of a person - Matthew 7:21-23
 - Jesus' "half-brother" said about the same thing - James 4:1-2
 - Jesus has the solution to getting rid of the causes of not having inner peace and contentment -
 - Titus 3:3-7
 - Out of God's kindness, love, mercy and grace and through His Son Jesus has saved and made righteous in His sight, those who believe in His Son.
 - The one who believes in Jesus is regenerated and renewed and is born again - John 3:5
 - Jesus removes the problem of unhappiness and lack of inner peace by removing first of all the cause - SIN.

2. Jesus teaches the believer to seek new goals in life:
 - He warns of the foolishness of pursuing riches - Matthew 6:19
 - Riches are perishable.
 - Riches are open to theft.
 - He teaches the believer to put his/her treasure in heaven - Matthew 6:20
 - What is in heaven is imperishable.
 - What is in heaven is secure - 1 Peter 1:3-5
 - How does the believer lay up treasure in heaven?
 - By living for Jesus, even under the hardest conditions - Luke 6:22-23
 - By following Jesus' teachings - Luke 6:35

3. Jesus gives the believer what he/she does not expect:
 - The believer who gives up making things, pleasure, popularity and personal desires in order to follow Jesus and His teachings, is provided portions of those very things the believer has given up:
 - Those who put God first are rewarded with material things necessary for life - Matthew 6:31-33; Mark 10:28-30
 - Those who put God first are rewarded with pleasure that is full and beyond description:
 - John 15:11; 1 Peter 1:8
 - Those who put God first are rewarded with "fame" that lasts forever - Colossians 3:4-2 Thessalonians 1:10-12; 2:14
 - When the believer lives for Jesus instead of him/herself:
 - He/she finds peace and happiness - John 13:12-17; Acts 20:35

CONCLUSION:

1. The world presents goals which very few can achieve and even if achieved, do not satisfy - Eccl. 5:10
2. Jesus places before the believer goals which can be achieved and that satisfy which can be stored up as treasure in heaven and that the believer can truly live for Jesus.
3. Are YOU happy? Do YOU have peace in YOUR heart? Do YOU want a better life? Then let Jesus be YOUR way. Turn everything over to Jesus. Let Jesus be your guide and key to that "good life."