

JULY 10TH 2005: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE: Col 1:9-14

Over the last few days.....thoughts have been occupied with two entirely diff subjects

DEATHVICTORY (SUCCESS).....has been the other

Death**as I traveled to Mount Barker..... BUT ALSO**

Victory.....as I boldly proclaimed victory over death for Terry.....not on the basis..but because of God's Great love.....revealed in the sacrifice on the cross

and with that thought of ultimate victory over death

also the thought of Success in this life

As Terry Halge walked with the Lord.....despite difficulties....

He was living a successful life for Jesus....in the strength Jesus gave

From ... human viewpoint...most may not have seen Terry's life as partic successful

(Cemetery.....Wine maker extraordinaireHe was successful.....

But in eternity the fact that he made good wine.....Is not a measure of success

But how much his life.....linked with...empowered by...Jesus)

That same idea of success for Jesus and through Jesus.....is also seen in the celebration today by Peter and Joan.....of 60 years.....

Now to be married to the same.....for 60 years.....is something that our society highly commends → cards from....

But more important than how man sees things.....is how God sees things

And I believe He looks upon their marriage as a success.....

Not because of its length

Or because it has always been smooth and prickle free

But because they have both sought to live out their relationship for Jesus....

And have done so by relying on His strength....guidance....correction

As a result of such thoughts.....began to think.....Characteristics of a successful Life
So with that in mind.....Turn with me to Colossians 1:9-14....

THE FIRST CHARACTERISTIC of a Successful life.....found in v10

That you live a life.....worthy of the Lord....fully pleasing to Him

As a believer....is that your aim ??

And if so.....**What** do you think it means for you....to live a...WORTHY OF...

(I think of the WWJD bracelets....It's that and more →

As a child....remember you are a Hall....Theres a good reputation that your parents have built....be careful that u don't...)

Jesus has revealed a way of life to us.....That is God empowered....God glorifying
And reveals love for God.....Love for others.....As its central feature

The Successful life.....is a life like that

Its also a life that is fully pleasing to Jesus

When did you last face a choice....between pleasing yourself....someone u were with
OR PLEASING JESUS

(Can recall talking to Christians.....armed forces.....Thay are also the ones that others come to when they want someone to talk to...)

THE SECOND CHARACTERISTIC of a successful life→ Is that it's a life
.....THAT is bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of....

Fruit bearing is the outward sign....of God the Spirit working in my life

So we talk about the Fruit of the Spirit.....

There must also be the Fruit....which is the influence of the Gospel....as portrayed in some way by us.....on the lives of others:::Drawing some one a step closer to God

Then there is also fruit....happens as we sacrifice ourselves....some way small or...
Because we are followers of Jesus

*Someone wrote that Sacrificing our lives for Jesus is like giving Him a cheque for....
But He doesn't take it all at once
Instead He sends us to the bank.....tells us to change it for 50c pieces
Then we go through life putting out 50c here and a \$ there
Listening to the neighbour's kids troubles instead of saying, "Get lost"
Going to a committee meeting
Giving a cup of water to a shabby old man in a nursing home
Taking the time to tell some lonely person....how much Jesus and you cares for them*

*Usually giving our lives to Christ isn't glorious. It's done in all those little acts of love,
50 c at a time. It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it's harder to live the
Christian life little by little over the long haul*

Notice that such fruit bearing is not alone...It includes growing in the knowledge of God
Knowledge gained through studying His Word
Spending quite time talking with Him
But also trusting Him as you seek to minister in His name

We have put a lot of emphasis on studying....
But if that's all we do....then our very knowledge is incomplete
Fruit bearing and knowledge gaining.....must go together

THE THIRD CHARACTERISTIC OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE
..v11 a life strengthened by God's power...having endurance..patience...and joy

In other words
Your life will be successful in God's eyes.....when you depend upon His power daily
When you say as Paul did.....I can do all things thro.....

We try so hard in our own strength

When all the power of God.....is just a prayer away

DANIEL preferred to spend a night with hungry lions.....than miss a day of prayer

The most glorious thing is.....That God's Power makes us Effective

(illustration from Kevin Bacon.....p191.....)

But it also gives us Endurance.....which means bearing up under great pressure

Patience.....enabling us to take abuse...ill treatment...without blowing up

Joy.....As we are reminded daily....that in Christ we have an inheritance...never fails

But of course.....these characteristics of a life...seen by God as pleasing....successful
Can only belong to one who belongs to Jesus

Who...as v13 puts it

Has been rescued from the Kingdom of darkness.....brought into the kingdom

*(There have been many stories.....come out of that dreadful tragedy last Thursday
→Went completely dark....carriages filled with smoke...smell of burning flesh
Then someone came and rescued us....They led us out of the darkness into...)*

That what Jesus came to earth to do for you.....You may not feel you need it now
But you don't know what is ahead.....

It's because Jesus does.....need Him so much