

## 2136 - GET the LIFE of CHRIST - 1 John 5:11,12

PRELIMS. We have all heard the expression 'Get a Life' - it is usually used as a **derogatory term** when someone has made a blunder. Well I want to say to all of us including myself, 'Get a Life'!

Now Christianity **has doctrine**, and very **important** doctrine too! In fact unless the doctrine is **correct**, it is not Xnity! But you **can** have Xn doctrine and **not** be a Xn – ie, you can be **void** and **empty** of the **life of Christ** within you, spiritual life, Xn life. John tells us plainly, *God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son* [1John 5:11]

Unless there is life in us, spiritual life, we are not saved. We will not live for ever! We will die. We can believe what we like – even the truth, for the **devils believe** and even tremble at it – but unless we have the 'life of Christ' within us, we will die and all that that means!

Paul tells us that it was Jesus who brought this spiritual life into our world. He *abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel* [2 Tim 1:10]. Jesus **brought life** to us. Jesus did not just teach the Truth, He **gave** us life. We need to be **alive** in Christ! Paul spoke of *Christ, who is our life* [Col 3:4] Those who are spiritually 'dead', are those on the 'outside', those 'without God and without Christ, and without hope!' [Eph 2:12].

Many people know the truth. Many people have a proper understanding of rightness and wrongness and of true doctrine and theology and could properly **correct erring theologians** and smell heresy a mile away, but they do not have life within them! They are spiritually 'dead'! They need to be **made alive** in X[1C15:22] **APP** Are **you** 'alive'? Are you living, is something 'alive' in you?

**Listen to Jesus** *My sheep hear My voice...they follow Me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish* [J10:28] What a wonderful statement! Eternal life and never perish!! Who would not want that? You know those who seek death and commit suicide, are not really seeking death or 'nothing' - they are seeking **another 'life'**,

another ‘**experience**’ of life, one of peace/rest/tranquility/happiness/joy/fulfilment – or whatever is missing in their present life!

Do you realise what the whole **purpose** of Christ's mission into our world was this *I came that they might have **life** and have it **abundantly*** [J10:10] Christ came to **give** us life, not only doctrine. And not just **hope** as we know the word today! In fact Paul goes as far as to say *if in this life **only** we have **hoped** in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied* [1Cor 15:19] Why? Because this life ends, but **in Christ** we have **resurrection life** which never ends. The life in Christ is eternal life *and they shall **never perish** and no one will snatch them out of My hand*. Hope is a wonderful thing, it is even an **anchor** sure and steadfast – but it is not the complete thing! Paul is saying that if it is **limited** to **this** life only, it isn't of much value!

Hope, as we know the word today, is **not reality** – it is still something in the future, sure though that hope may be. But X gave us **more** than hope, He gave us life, here and now, life within us – and we can **experience** that life in our souls! This is how Paul described this new life he found in X *It is no longer I who live, but Christ who **lives in me**. And **the life I now live** in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”*[Gal 2:20]

The change was so great that he said (in NLT) *But **my life** is worth nothing **unless I use it** for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus-- the work of **telling others** the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love* [Acts 20:24 NLT] **APP** Is that how **you** find life? If not, you are **missing** out on something! 'life is **worth nothing** unless you are telling people about the Lord Jesus?'

Peter found this life so **exhilarating** that he said he *rejoiced with **joy** that is **inexpressible** and **filled** with glory* [1P1:8]. And he was really trying to be as honest as he could be about life! Peter wasn't trying to **pretend** to enjoy life – life was too important to him. He was actually encouraging others to go through the same problems he was going through but the joy and life within him was more than worth it.

Paul said *I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worth comparing** with the glory that is to be revealed to us* [Rom 8:13] He knew from the joy and the life within him, that nothing, but nothing, equalled the joy he **had** and the **future glory!**

John is saying here, that if we do not have the 'life of Jesus Christ' within us, we have **no life at all!** *Whoever does **not have the Son does to have life** - whatever he may think he has. If you don't have Christ you have anything really - its all meaningless and empty.*

Do you understand that if we do not have **this** 'Life of Christ' within us, we are **locked**, yes, **locked**, into a life that is **regulated** and **monitored** and **controlled** by a law that **enslaves** you - **unwittingly!** It is the law of sin in our members! *I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and **making me captive to the law of sin** that dwells in my members* [Rom 7:23] Paul talks about the **snare of the devil** and **being captured by him to do his will** [2 Tim 2:26]. Many people today do not believe they are **captive** to a sinful life and unless Christ sets us free, we are bound for ever.

Its strange, but you can be **enslaved** without **realising** it! Because it is the **only** thing you know. Its the **only life** you have and you are comfortable in it. You are getting something from it. There can be a **security** in being enslaved! **Why** do you think the Israelites **wanted** to go back to **Egypt**? They got their daily bread, etc. *We remember the **fish** we ate in Egypt that **cost nothing**, the **cucumbers**, the **melons**, the **leeks**, the **onions**, and the **garlic*** [Num 11:5]!

We all need to be **set free** from our 'Life without Christ' **lifestyle!** Being **satisfied** without Christ is being **satisfied in sin!** *For the law of the Spirit of life has **set you free** in Christ Jesus **from the law of sin and death*** [Rom 8:2] But when X puts His life in us, this principle of sin that works in us all the time, is broken and we are 'set free' from its bondage. We are no longer **slaves** to it, we no longer **have** to live a sinful life, ie, it is **easier** to live a good and godly life!

This new life is so real, many Xns are prepared, and some actually

have **died** - gave up this life for the next one, **ahead of time** as it were! They did so **happily**! Many Xns have **joyfully** gone to the stake singing God's praise for the **privilege**! It is said of the Marquess of **Montrose** that as he walked down the Margetgate in Edinburgh to his execution, the manner in which he walked, with ribbons on his shoes and white gloves on his hands, did more good for his cause than anything in his life. The **confidence** with which he faced death in full assurance of eternal salvation made his face glow!

Paul **challenges** his Xn readers 'What **benefit** did you get from living the way you used to live? Compare what you are getting now, with what you got before!' *what **fruit** were you getting at that time from the things of which you are **now ashamed**? The end of those things is death. But **now** that you have been **set free** from sin and have become slaves of God, the **fruit** you get leads to sanctification and its end, **eternal life*** [Rom 6:21cf] **APP** Today, there does **not** seem to be **time** for people to stop and **think** about life and its **purpose** and what do they get out of life. It seems to be just a struggle each day! That is the purpose for many people, just 'getting thru the day'!

Its not money, its not materialism that makes people happy – its your **life**, its what you get out of life! But it is not just life that X gives us, it is **eternal life** *I give to them **eternal life**...*!

Once you get this life – it is yours forever! *no one will snatch them out of My hand* [John 10:28]. **Total security**! Thats what people are looking for today – security. People feel very insecure today. They are frightened what is going to happen next! You see, without God, without a Supreme Controller with a **purpose**, without Someone governing **everything** which most people's position today, how **can** any one feel secure? Anything can happen any time for **no reason** - because no one is in control! Without realising it, people are **needing** and actually are **looking** for God! So.....

Get a Life. Get Life in Christ! **Ask** the Lord Jesus to come into your life and to 'Take Over' – you will never ever regret it!