

Great Contradiction – Life to the Fullest

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

The Great Contradiction

1. The world usually sees contradiction as an area of _____, yet in the Bible there is an immense amount of _____ found in texts that seemingly contradict each other
2. One of the greatest contradictions found in the Bible is that as believers we are expected to _____ our lives, yet live our life to the _____
3. You don’t get life before you get _____, but the life you get after death is a life of fulfillment

The Dilemma of Life

1. We are _____ to live life to the fullest – it was in the original plan.
Gen. 2:7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.
2. Many of us recognize our desire to live life to the fullest, yet we turn to the things of this _____ to find fulfillment.

Christ’s Model for a Fulfilled Life – John 10:10

John 10:9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

1. Jesus decides _____ events in your life happen.
2. Jesus decides _____ the events of your fulfilled life will be.
3. Jesus provides freedom to _____ life fully because of the safety and security he provides.

4. The life Christ brings, when you trust that He knows best, is a life of _____.

Biblical Example of a Meaningless Life

1. Solomon came to the conclusion that everything is meaningless because there is no _____ that he ever learned that life is not about him (Ecclesiastes).
2. Out of all the elements Solomon lists that make life meaningless, he never mentions sincere _____.
3. There is a stark difference between Solomon and Paul.
 - Solomon: His desire is to please _____.
 - Paul: His desire is to be _____ with Christ.

What is Life?

1. Life has more to do with _____ than with objects.
Ecc. 4:8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. “For whom am I toiling,” he asked, “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless – a miserable business!
2. Life has more to do with overcoming _____ than living the easy life. (Israelites, Nehemiah, Acts Church, etc...)
3. Life has more to do with looking to the _____ than looking to the past.
Ecc. 7:10 Do not say, “Why were the old days better than these?” For it is not wise to ask such questions.
4. Life has more to do with pleasing _____ than pleasing yourself.
Phil. 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

The Conclusion

1. The great contradiction is no contradiction at all, but rather an absolute truth that models our method of _____ an abundant life.
2. You don’t get life before you get _____, but the life you get after death is a life of fulfillment.