

"THE DIVIDENDS OF DYING"

page 2 -

service to God, that's what it means to die, forget yourself, stop
preparing self --- for as the sailor was very resourceful (only king
for a little while) "THE DIVIDENDS OF DYING" his present enjoyment.
If you die - this is what happens: you choose to die, hate your
life, follow Jesus --- They all mean the same thing --- (choose to

Text: John 12:20-26 follow Jesus --- Main verse - vs. 24 "Verily,
verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the
ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth
forth much fruit." -- Every time you see verily, verily, it
always means Jesus is about to make a very important statement.
Immediately when you see these two words you know that what is
to follow is of great importance.

INTRODUCTION: Favorite story of Sigmund Freud (father of
psychiatry, not a Christian) -- shipwrecked sailor, natives
of island make him absolute ruler --- but only for one year--
then banished to deserted island. Two alternatives: either
take everything they gave him and consume it, spend it for
the moment, enjoy the one year to the fullest -- or store
away for future use. ---- (text) -- Two things you can do with
this corn of wheat: either consume and enjoy it right away or
you can sow it, bury in the ground, let it DIE and then eat of
the harvest for the rest of the days. TWO things a man can do
with his life: consume in the present or conserve for the future.

Two and only two - no third alternative. Right now you are
king, you sit upon the throne of your heart, you are the ab-
solute monarch of your life. Do as you please, God will not
stop you, force you to do anything. But God allows you to
live and choose as you want to --- right now you are king,
ruler -- but only for a year. So you can do one of two things:
consume your life to gratify the present desires, and when the
day is come -- no more. Or, you can do what a farmer would do
with his seed: drop in the ground, let it DIE, conserve it for
the future. Only two things --- what are you doing with it right
now?

verse 24 -- Jesus said "Except a corn of wheat fall into the
ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth
forth much fruit."

What does it mean to DIE? ---- when seed dies, seed must be
separated, left where it is right now (a sack of seeds is not
valuable), but as it dies it must leave that present place ---
must come apart -- not think of itself -- but must sacrifice
itself for something, it must DIE.

For a man to die it means exactly this ---- must separate
himself from this life --- instead of consuming himself, he denies
himself, forgets himself, throws his life away -- sacrifice in

"THE DIVIDENDS OF DYING"

- page 2 -

service to God, that's what it means to die, forget yourself, stop pampering self --- for as the sailor was very resourceful (only king for a little while), not being blinded by this present enjoyment. If you die - this is what happens: you choose to die, hate your life, follow Jesus --- They all mean the same thing -- (choose to die, hate your life, follow Jesus).

verses 24,25,26

All mean the same thing -- different words explaining the same thing - WHAT ARE THE DIVIDENDS OF DYING? --- die, what then? If you die this morning, your life will be a life of --

I. FRUITFULNESS

Rule of harvest and nature: life can only come out of death. (Illustration: asking farmer planting seed - wasting it?)

(Illustration: man works 5 or 6 days week - "Sunday my only day").

. . . can't visit Tuesday (TV) . . . can't afford to tithe . . .)

(Illustration: Al's testimony) . . . looked like she was throwing her life away -- died to self -- FRUIT? --- pastor husband, pastor, son.

also, brings forth:

II. FULLNESS of LIFE

verse 25. "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."

Life - three times in verse 25, loveth life, hateth life, life eternal, that third life, life eternal is a different word than the other two. The other two - life, self, life, existence - animal life - natural life, the word from which we get our word EGO. Jesus is saying he that loveth life (existence), ego, shall keep it. Life Eternal - this word is divine life, higher than animal existence, higher than ego, ideal of life - Matthew 4 "Man shall not live by bread alone" - Jesus used this word (life eternal). Man can live by BREAD alone, but he cannot live in the FULLNESS OF LIFE by bread alone. Takes more than just bread for man to have FULLNESS OF LIFE. But if a man loveth this animal existence (ego), he will lose it (life).

Ill. - Cocker Spaniel -- (1) lazy (2) never did anything but eat and sleep --- loved his life (animal existence) --- all he wanted: something to eat, a place to sleep, warmth --- - this is nor more than a lot here this morning want.

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"THE DIVIDENDS OF DYING"

- page 3 -

. . . ISN'T it a tragedy - man, made in the image of God, made to know God, content themselves with the life of a dog.

God says - Man who loves himself (ego) will lose his life -- but if he hates it, throws it away, unconcerned about ego, gives himself for Jesus, hates this present life, he will guard it, protect it, stand guard over it --- God says the best way to guard life is to throw it away.

Two things will happen if you throw life away: - (1) better life, a FULLER life, (2) life that will last forever (ETERNAL LIFE).

and, if I die, bring forth:

III. FATHER'S FAVOR

verse 26: "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. (favor)

Phillipians, chapter 2 - Jesus Christ being in the form of God -
verse 6: "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7: "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8: "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9" "Wherefore God also hath highly EXALTED him, and given him a name which is above every name."

When Jesus sacrificed with His life - God highly EXALTED Him.
verse 26 -- if we do the same as Jesus, we will have the same as Jesus had - the Father will HONOR us.

Two alternatives open to us this morning: whose HONOR do you want heaped upon you?

Ill. - Missionary and wife returning from Africa on same boat with Teddy Roosevelt. ---- "Oh, missionary, you are not home yet."

In this life it may look like life is thrown away - but there is another place besides this life --- another life -- WHOSE HONOR DO YOU WANT? You can throw your life away trying to get the honor of this world - but if you pick the favor of God -- life eternal -- only two things you can do: (1) Keep for self, (2) Throw it away for God. Would you die then to self, to ego, and live the full life that God has for you. Doing what God wants you to do - that's DYING.

RLD:jg
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