

From Pastor's Desk...

ABUNDANT LIFE

Rev. K. M. Varughese

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and may have it abundantly" (1 John 10:10). The term 'Life' is a central theme found in the Gospel of John. He uses it as a synonym of Eternal Life in his writings. Scholars suggest that John's usage of 'Eternal Life' is against the synoptic Gospels' use of the "Kingdom of God."

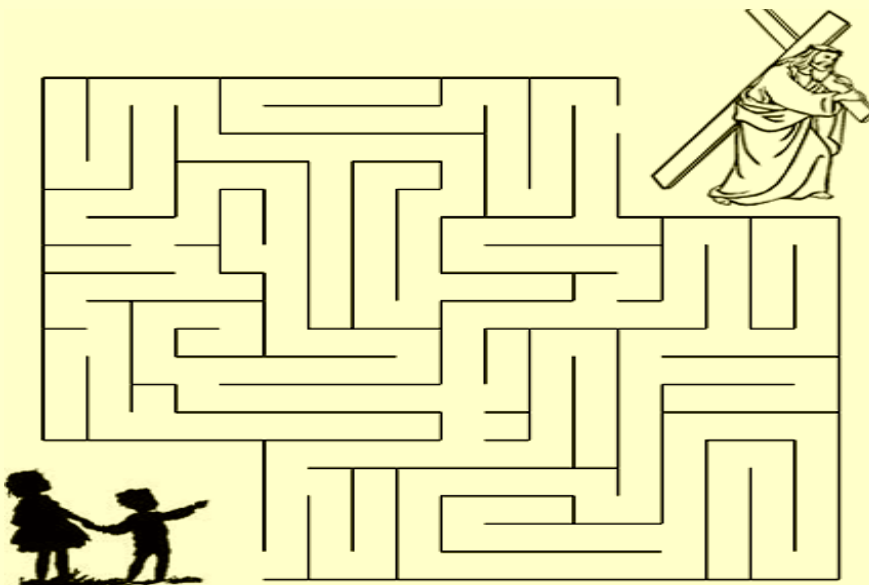
John uses the term 'life' 65 times in his writings and most of the time he refers to eternal life in contrast with the finiteness of life. But he uses the term 'abundant life' only once. Abundant life refers to the fullness of life which is in contrast to the 'emptiness of life'. Abundant life for a person begins with the new birth - a new relationship with God and man. The terms 'Life', 'Eternal Life' and 'Abundant Life' are synonymous for John.

The background of the term is to be understood in light of the first century Jewish thought. Rabbis taught that the study of the Torah - the law - would lead to "life in the age to come." It shows that they had the vision of the "life in the age to come" that the righteous were to inherit. John picks up the same idea, equating 'eternal life' and 'abundant life' as the statement of blessedness of the age to come through faith in Jesus. It is interesting to know that John presents 'Eternal life' and 'Abundant life' in the present tense in his writings. Jesus has come down from the Father as 'Life' to give us eternal life. He is life and his words are life (John 6:63).

John 10:10 is one of the grandest claims of Jesus. The significance of this life is its abundance of supply. It surpasses the present and immediate use. Life has untold capacities such as beauty, strength, growth, resistance to death, continuity and eternity, which Jesus gives to them who believe in Him and in His vicarious death on the cross. Yes! Jesus is the destroyer of death and the originator of life.

MAZE: FOLLOW JESUS - NO TURNING BACK!

"...you do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of **Eternal Life**."



LIFE IS WORTH A LIVING JUST BECAUSE GOD LIVES

Ria Regi

On an average, 107 people die per minute, 121 million people have some form of depression worldwide, one person suicides every 40 seconds, 200 million people turn to find a solace in drugs around the globe, and about 68% of the human population have not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior!

This heartbroken world we live in tries to find it's 'band aids' and 'stitches' in doctors who may have credentials but cannot heal; the only doctor who has the credentials to heal you is He whom we call 'Jesus'! He died so that we will no longer have to watch our loved ones die. He died so that not another tear would fall from our eyes. He died so that our only solace would be Him. He died so that we would die to our sins and live in righteousness.

We focus so much on building up our earthly lives that we get caught up in the moment and forget the price paid for the lives we have. No follower on Instagram or a friend on Facebook is willing to step down from their throne on Earth and give their lives for you. Only one person was willing to, but sadly, many of us neglect Him and take what He did for us very lightly. The way to honor Jesus' sacrifice is in Matthew 22:37-38 which states, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

He died for us so that we can live for Him and we, as Christians, often forget that. We take for granted what Jesus did at the cross and disregard the fact that although we may have this privilege to go to heaven, we also need to live our lives that He has given to us for the glory and purpose of God.

LIFE – THE HIGHEST PRICE WAS PAID

Danny Kuruvilla

Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden and they were living a life of abundance. Everything and more than what they needed was right there for them. In fact, they were appointed to work in and take care of the Garden by God. Man was to name the birds and the animals. Among all of God's creation, man was the most precious one. God created man in His own image. Man had the highest position in all creation. God and man were friends. There was an intimate relationship between God and man in the Garden of Eden. But then, one day sin disturbed that intimacy of man with God.

History tells us that sin did not stop there. It continued on. The heart of God grieved seeing His most precious creation that He had created for His pleasure delighting in the pleasures of sin. And so, God decided to give man a chance to reconcile with God because of His love for man. He sent His one and only son to earth to become man and to become a sacrifice for our sins. In John 3:16 we read God did this so that we may not perish but have life, eternal life. Man gained life eternal through God's son's life. Not only did we gain eternal life but also a life of abundance (John 10:10).

Now that God has given us life, who are we living for? Are we living for ourselves? Are we living for our friends and relatives? Or, are we living for the one who purchased us with His own blood? Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:15 that Christ died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. The life we live is not our own. It belongs to the one who paid the highest price for it. So let us live a life that is pleasing and acceptable to God.