LIFE OR DEATH, YOUR CHOICE

Part Two – GOD’S PRESCRIPTION FOR TRUE LIFE

**DATE: 7/10/16 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs (Various)**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are looking at what constitutes Life and Death

And tonight we want to look at God’s Prescription for True Life

**To Prescribe** means *to write before, to lay down authoritatively as a guide, direction, or rule of action*

God in His Word as written down before hand, man’s needed direction

**Psalm 119:89 *– “For ever, O LORD, Thy Word (as been) is settled in heaven”***

**Isaiah 30:21 –*“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left”***

I’ve said this in the past – Life is more than mere existence

**Matthew 10:28 –*“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”***

**John 17:3 *– “And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”***

Let’s pray and look at …

**“God’s Prescription for True Life”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

God’s Prescription for True Life is first off …

**I. THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

Now I know that we have covered this extensively in our first thought on knowing what constitutes Life & Death

But it doesn’t hurt to be reminded / review

**Jude 5 –** ***“I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once (heard) knew this”***

To have Life Eternal you must have a Fear of God

And with the Fear of the LORD comes Eternal Life

Two different sides of the same coin

**Proverbs 14:27 *– “The Fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death”***

**Proverbs 22:4 *– “By humility and the Fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life”*** (True Life)

God’s Prescription for True Life is …

**THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

Next it is …

**II. PURSUING GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Righteousness is living up to God’s Standard, not our own

Living according to what is Biblically right

And the only way someone can pursue (continue in) Biblical Righteousness is by being saved

**Psalms 33:18-22 …**

Because it is by the imputed Righteousness of Christ that we even want to live righteously

**II Corinthians 5:21 *– “For He (the Father) hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

**Proverbs 21:21 *– “He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour”***

**Proverbs 11:19 *– “As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death”***

**Proverbs 12:28 –*“In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death”***

**Proverbs 10:16 –*“The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin”***

-- Noah practiced Righteousness

**Genesis 7:1 *– “And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation”***

We also know that Noah was Righteous because …

**Genesis 6:8 *– “… Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD”***

**Hebrews 11:7 –*“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith”***

-- Abraham practiced Righteousness

**Genesis 15:6 –** ***“And he (Abram) believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness”***

-- King Saul recognized David’s Righteousness

**I Samuel 24:17 *– “And he (King Saul) said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil”***

The Bible’s standard of man’s righteousness is God’s own perfection in every attribute, every attitude, every behavior, and every word

Thus, God’s Law (as given in the Bible) both describes His own character and constitute the plumb line by which He measures man’s righteousness

And the Life that God’s gives us because we Pursue Him is Abundant Life

**John 10:10 …**

***“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”***

God’s Prescription for True Life is …

**THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

**PURSUING GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**III. OBEYING GODLY INSTRUCTION**

**Proverbs 1:2 – *“To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;”***

**Psalm 32:8 *– “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye”***

If we are to thrive in this life than we must be willing to obey instruction

**Instructions** are *spoken or written statements of what must be done; teaching in a particular subject or skill, or the facts or skills taught*

Society as set forth certain behaviors that need to be minded / Laws

Today everyone thinks that most situations are **Relative –** *changing with circumstances*

The Moral norms of Modern Society are quickly changing

The reason they are changing is because man has become the final Authority and not God

But if we are to enjoy life, (As Designed by God) then we need to Obey Godly Instruction / That, which is set forth in the Bible

We can’t just follow any old way we please, and think it will be acceptable with God (Doesn’t work that way)

**Proverbs 10:17 –** ***“He is in the way of life that keepeth (God’s) instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth”***

**Proverbs 4:4 *– “He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain My words: keep My commandments, and live”***

**Proverbs 4:20, 22 –** ***“My son, attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings” “For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh”***

God’s Prescription for True Life is …

**FEAR OF THE LORD**

**PURSUING GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**OBEYING GODLY INSTRUCTION**

**IV. PRACTICING TEMPERANCE**

Temperance is a word not used much anymore

Temperance is *restraint in the face of temptation or desire*

The Philosophy of the day is – *“If it feels good, just do it!”*

*“Do as you please, as long as you don’t hurt anyone”*

The last characteristic listed in **Galatians 5:22, 23** (as a fruit of the Spirit) is *Temperance*

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law”***

The fruit of the Spirit is the change in our character as Believers, that comes about because of the Holy Spirit's work in us

We do not become Believer’s on our own, and we cannot grow on our own

**Philippians 2:13** says **–** ***“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure”***

Every good thing we will ever do, will be the fruit of the Spirit's work in our lives

Temperance is the Spirit Controlled Life

It’s yielding to the Word of God as the Holy Spirit prompts

To be able to yield to the Word of God, we most first know the Word of God

Scriptures cannot be *recalled* *to* mind unless they’ve first been *installed* *in* the mind

They cannot *abide* in our hearts unless we first *hide* them in our hearts

Temperance involves Moderation, Constraint, and the ability to say “No” to our baser desires and fleshly lusts

One of the proofs of God’s working in our lives is the ability to control our Thoughts, Words, and Actions

It’s not that we are naturally weak-willed (Oh no!)

We often use that for an excuse

The natural Man is very Self-Willed, obstinate

But rather, understanding that our fallen nature is under the strong influence of sin

The Bible calls it the *“Law of sin”*

**Romans 7:23 *– “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members”***

But **… Romans 6:6 *– “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin”***

One definition of sin is *filling a legitimate need through illegitimate means*

Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we are incapable of knowing and choosing how best to meet our needs

Even when we know what is best (such as not smoking)

Some other need, like ease, would take precedence and enslave us

We should let the Holy Spirit Control … (3 things)

**A. Thoughts and Desires**

**Proverbs 16:3 – *“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established”***

***“commit”* *(verb)* –** *promised devotion, entrust something to somebody*

The order is interesting – *works* before *thoughts*

The assumption here is that someone has a relationship with the LORD … And wants to be obedient

**Proverbs 4:23 *– “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”***

***“Keep” (verb)* –** *to watch over, to maintain*

**Proverbs 14:30 –*“A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones”***

***“sound” (adjective)* –** *sensible, not damaged, healthy*

Not only should we allow the Holy Spirit Control over our … **Thoughts and Desires**

But we should let the Holy Spirit Control our …

**B. Words and Speech**

**Proverbs 13:3 – *“He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction”***

Our pray needs to be …

**Psalm 141:3 *– “Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips”***

**Ps. 17:3-5; 39:1; 71:8; James 1:26; 3:2**

**Proverbs 15:4 – *“A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit”***

**I Timothy 6:3 – *“If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;”***

***“wholesome” –*** *health-giving, morally beneficial, sensible, honest, common sense*

Today’s world is filled with perversion

**Proverbs 18:21 – *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof”***

Not only our …

**Thoughts and Desires**

**Words and Speech**

But also we should let the Holy Spirit Control our …

**C. Actions and Attitudes**

**Psalm 145:17 – *“The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works”***

Therefore we must be Righteous in all our ways, and Holy in all our Works

Again **Proverbs 16:3 – *“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established”***

In **Exodus 18:20** we seeJethro, Moses’ Father-in-Law’s advice …

***“And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do”***

That’s the pastor’s job

This is your job …

**Psalm 119:27 – *“(Lord) Make me to understand the way of Thy precepts: so shall I talk (walk in all) of Thy wondrous works”***

**Proverbs 21:8 – *“The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right”***

The Holy Spirit is calling us onto Himself, to walk in all His ways

**Proverbs 3:6 *– “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths”***

**FEAR OF THE LORD**

**PURSUING GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**OBEYING GODLY INSTRUCTION**

**PRACTICING TEMPERANCE**

**CONCLUSION**

These are only a few of the things that Constitute True Life