

The Good Life

1 Peter 3:10-12 (NKJV)

10 For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."

Everyone want it .

Few have it.

Most have no idea how to get it.

Take a look at the sermon on the mount.

Matthew 5:3–12 (NKJV)

³ "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. ⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

We would not use language like that to describe the good life, the blessed life.

Why not?

Are our eyes on the wrong thing.

Are we no better than the toddler that must be constantly entertained in order to feel like we are living the good life.

Americans have more stuff than any other people of the world but yet we are not happy, not fulfilled.

I. Does anyone not want the good life?

A. For "He who would love life And see good days,

B. Everyone wants to live the good life.

1. But there are different ways people go at it.

2. Some would see it in money and things that we think we can enjoy.

3. Or some think that if they can abuse substances enough then finally they

will be so dulled by them that can escape their problems and even life itself.

4. Maybe that is why eastern religion longs for nirvana, the condition of non-existence.

5. Psalm 15 looks at it differently

a. ¹ LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? ² He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; ³ He *who* does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He *who* swears to his own hurt and does not change; ⁵ He *who* does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these *things* shall never be moved.

C. What are the good days.

1. When you are young and alive with hope and energy.

2. Can you remember those days.

3. But are those days only for the young.

4. A lot of that depends upon what you do when you are young.

II. Self control

A. Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.

1. Psalm 39:1 (NKJV)

a. ¹ I said, "I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me."

2. Proverbs 21:23 (NKJV)

a. ²³ Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.

B. The tongue is a dangerous member of the body.

1. James 3:8 (NKJV)

a. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

C. Deceit is all around us.

1. Advertisers, politicians, salesmen.

- 2. We are fairly good at it ourselves
- D. Our success with self control will be one of the keys to a full life.
 - 1. Romans 7:19–21 (NKJV)
 - a. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.
- III. Evil or Good
 - A. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good;
 - B. From EVIL
 - 1. Is there such a thing?
 - 2. Evil here is more than moral; it involves nonacknowledgment of God and self-assertion before him, i.e., ungodliness. *Gerhard Kittel, Gerhard Friedrich, and Geoffrey William Bromiley, Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1985), 393.*
- IV. Finding peace
 - A. Let him seek peace and pursue it.
 - 1. Matthew 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
- V. God sees
 - A. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."