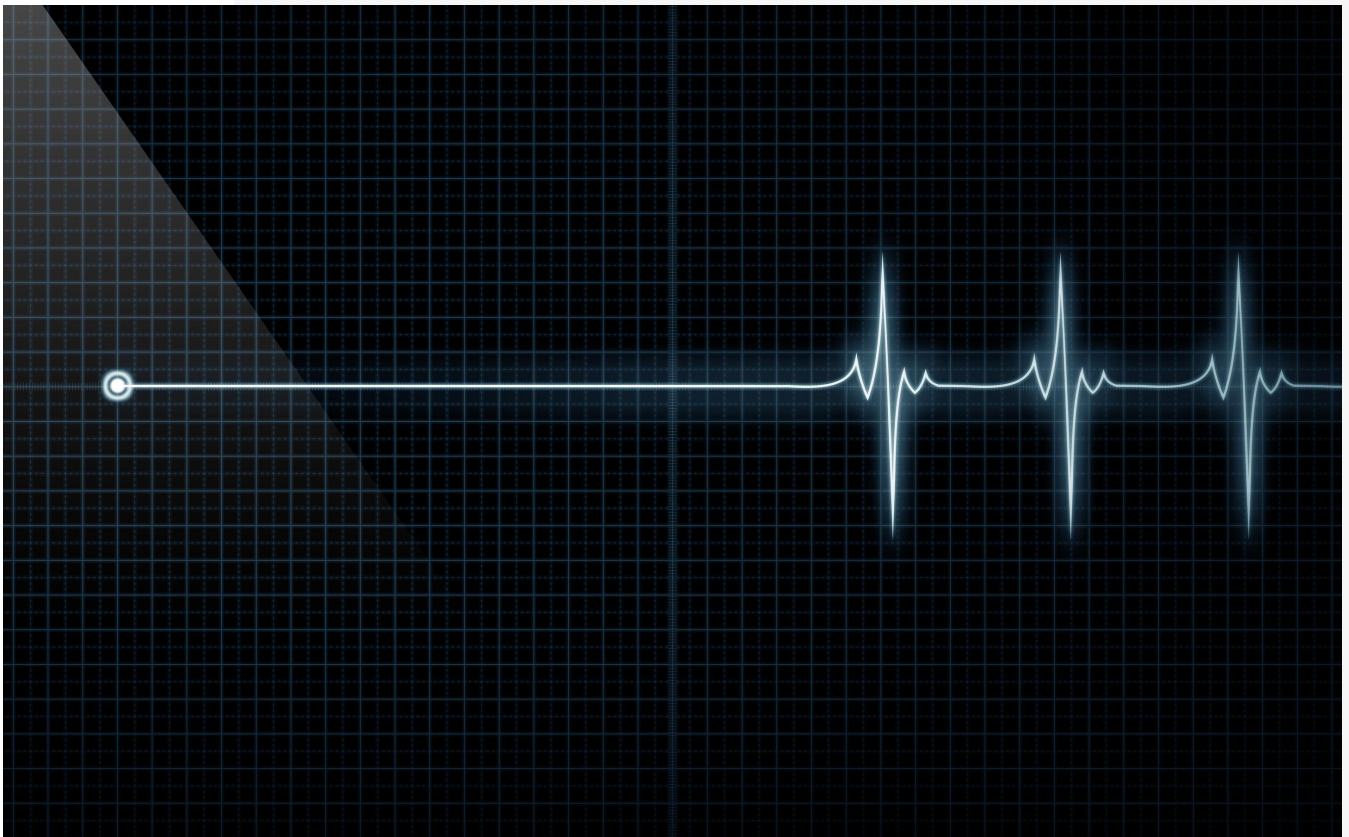


SUMMER SERMONS

JOHN 10:10

GET A LIFE!



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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AUGUST 30 (AM)

INTRODUCTION

"What can Jesus do for my life?" Many ask that question today. It's an understandable question because we ask it about everything else in life. When we are deciding where to live, what to study, who to marry, what car to buy, what career to pursue, a large part of our decision is going to be, "How will this help my life?" God made us this way. He designed and gave us life, he made us to love life and want to live the best life, the happiest life, the most meaningful life.

Therefore it's no surprise that Jesus said: **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly** (John 10:10). Jesus knows how we are made, how we are motivated, and therefore appeals to that, and persuades with it. "You want the best life, the most satisfying life, the most meaningful life. That's why I came here. That's what I can give you."

"What can Jesus do for my life?" Let's hear Jesus's own answer to that question. But, first of all, I want to explain why he said this here.

CONTEXT

If we go back a few verses, we'll see what led to Jesus's words here. **So, Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly (7-10).**

Jesus explains how there are many people in this world and they really exist to drain life from you. They are life-suckers, even life-killers. They are not out for your best interests. They are interested in what they can get from the sheep but not in the sheep themselves. Their minds are focused more on what they can get out of people rather than what they can do and give and be for the sheep. He then contrasts himself with them: **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly (10).**



What kind of life does Jesus give?



1. JESUS GIVES ABUNDANT SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual Death

The Apostle Paul says we are born dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:10). This is not speaking about physical (bodily) life. Rather, it's describing our spiritual life, our soul.

So, is our soul dead? No, we all have an inner life, we have emotions, desires, longings, and loves. That's the spiritual part of us, and it's living and functioning. However, because of sin, it's not directed towards God, but rather away from God. Our soul has no desire for God, no love for God, no enjoyment of God. That's what Paul calls spiritual death. It's a living soul that's missed its purpose. It's a rogue satellite that's lost contact with Mission Control and is wandering in the darkness.

Spiritual Life

Jesus speaks into this black hole and says, "I am come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly." That's his whole purpose, his ultimate aim, his life's work. He did not come to make us deader, to sink us deeper, to kick our corpses, to push us further away. He came to get us out of death, to raise us higher, to reconnect us with Mission Control, and start us in a new orbit around the Son of God.

Those who have this life, live in a different dimension. It's an experience of living that we previously knew nothing about. How much did you know about *physical* life before you were born? Similarly, we know nothing about *spiritual* life until we have it. We can hear lots of people explain it and talk about it, and yet still know as much about it as we knew about our own physical life before being born – a big NOTHING.

♥ **How do we get this spiritual life?** If we desire this life from Christ, we have to start with the death of Christ. **I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep** (John 10:11). Jesus wants us to have life so much that he laid down his own life to give us life. He died our death to give us life. The price of life is Christ's death.

♥ **How do we know if we have this spiritual life?** Because our inner life is now directed toward God. We desire God, we love God, we enjoy God, we live for God. That's spiritual life. It's a hunger for God, a thirst for God, and an appetite for God. There's a new orbit, a new direction, a new communication, a new mission.

IF WE WANT LIFE FROM CHRIST,
START WITH THE DEATH OF CHRIST



Can you go into more detail about this life?
What about the life of the mind?



2. JESUS GIVES ABUNDANT INTELLECTUAL LIFE

Many people think that when you become a Christian, you park your brain at the door. They think you can't become a Christian without losing your mind. Christian faith is portrayed as a crutch for the weak, intellectual suicide, a haven for the unthinking. Educators, scientists, philosophers, journalists, etc., look down on Christians with scorn-filled pity. However, as *Ligonier's* motto makes clear, Christianity is about a renewing of the mind. It brings our intellect to life.

We're given a new mind. Many Christians will tell you how upon conversion the Lord gave them a new mind, a new way of thinking, a new energy in their thinking, a new ability to think, and reason, ask questions and find answers. The Bible sometimes describes salvation as an enlightening of the mind. That's what it can feel like. We were wandering around in the darkness when God turned the lights on in our mind and we began to think, and understand, and perceive and discern in a whole new way.

We're given new glasses: Jesus also gives new glasses to view and read other subjects. With this new mind soaked in God's Word, the Christian also wants to study God's world. And he sees God's world in a completely new light. She reads books and listens to lessons with a new filter, a new clarity, a new perception. Soccer doesn't look the same, politics doesn't look the same, entertainment doesn't look the same, engineering doesn't look the same, child-rearing doesn't look the same. We think more deeply, more perceptively, more profoundly now. We see what we never saw before, we see from new angles, we see with new insight.

We're given a new framework: This is often called a worldview. Prior to conversion we knew lots and lots about lots and lots but it didn't hold together, it was a lot of disparate separate information. Now we have a grid, a structure, a way of thinking. When re-connected with Mission Control, we see how everything connects to God.

How do we get this intellectual life?

It actually starts with the heart. Our heart is humbled by new spiritual life and this makes us realize that we never knew anything rightly. We then bring our ignorant, foolish, and limited brains, and say, "Lord I never knew anything as I should. Teach me, show me, lead me." This is also how we get more of this life.

How do we know if we have this new intellectual life?

One of the identifiers of a Christian is a desire to learn and know more about God. Before I was converted, I never read a book. I got through school without reading one book. Now I can't know enough. The more I know the more I want to know. The mind expands rather than shrinks. It is enlightened and enlivened.

IF WE GIVE CHRIST OUR MINDS
CHRIST WILL GIVE US HIS MIND



That's life for thinkers
What about feelers?



3. JESUS GIVES ABUNDANT EMOTIONAL LIFE

When people think of Christians, they say things like, "Poor people, they don't know how to enjoy themselves. They're emotionally stunted. They're good at sad and angry, but not at happy and peaceful." Nothing could be further from the truth. Christ came to give abundant emotional life. He came to purify our emotions, add to our emotions, and deepen and heighten our emotions. Although there are unpleasant feelings in the Christian life (e.g. sorrow over sin), there are also immensely enjoyable emotions too.

Joy. There's the joy of being a Christian, the joy of being loved with an everlasting love, the joy of love divine, all loves excelling, the joy of forgiveness of sins, the joy of adoption, the joy of hearing God's voice when we read and hear his Word.

Peace. There's the peace of a cleansed conscience, peace in the midst of trouble, peace in the face of death and judgment.

Confidence. Assurance of faith gives boldness in prayer, boldness in witnessing, boldness to fight Satan.

Hope. Hope is knowing that the future will be better than the past. Hope is knowing that however long the night, the sun will rise. Hope is knowing that life will get better, if not here, then certainly after death. Hope is knowing that there is life after death, that I have title to that life, and that my future is secure and certain. This hope is much more than a hope so. It's a hope that powerfully influences our present psyche and attitude.



How do we get this emotional life?

Recognize that your greatest problem is not emotional but spiritual. We come to Christ first of all for forgiveness and only then for feelings. Forgiveness connects us with God and a flourishing emotional life. The more value and receive forgiveness the more we will love (Lk.7:47) and the more we will rejoice, and so on.



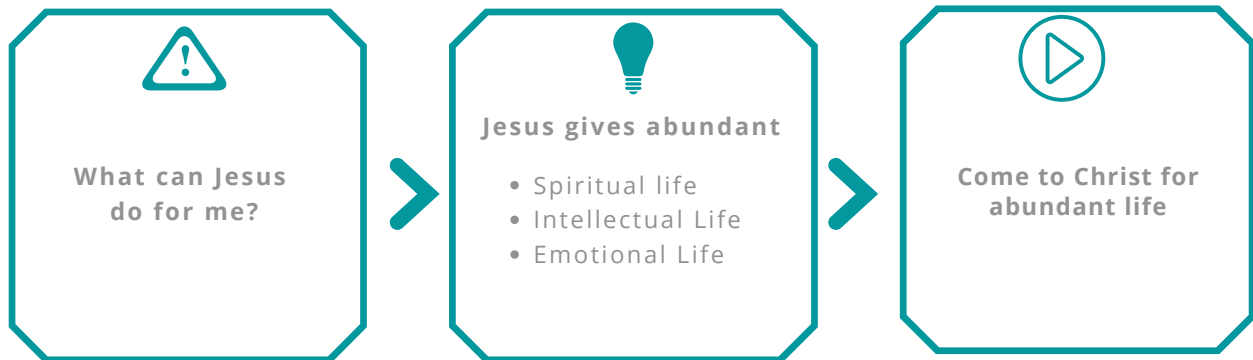
How do we know if we have this new emotional life? Where do we go when

our feelings are not what they should be. The Psalmists always brought their grief, and hopelessness, and fear to God. They didn't hide it or deny it or try to fix it themselves. So, let's bring our emotional deadness to Christ and ask for abundant emotional life from him and through him.

WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST
AND THE FEELINGS OF CHRIST



CONCLUSION



FURTHER STUDY

Online Articles

- [Thinking Like Jesus](#) by R C Sproul
- [Five Steps to Renewing your Mind](#) by Judy Allen
- [The Discipline of Learning](#) by Donald Whitney
- [Start Being So Emotional](#) by Lore Wilbert
- [Don't Pursue Feelings, Pursue Christ](#) by Joe Thorn
- [Fake Christian Emotions and Real Christian Affections](#) by Thomas Kidd.

Discussion Questions

- How would you answer someone who asked you, "What can Jesus do for me?"
- Describe your experience of spiritual death.
- How would you help someone who questioned if they really had spiritual life through Christ?
- How did Jesus change your mind, your thinking, your worldview?
- What emotions did Jesus give you and what did he take away?
- What feelings do you lack and desire, and what can you do to get them?

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SUMMER SERMONS

JOHN 10:10

GET A LIFE!



What can Jesus do for me?

Biblical answer?



Come to Christ
for an abundant life



Jesus gives
abundant spiritual life

- Spiritual death
- Spiritual life

IF YOU WANT LIFE FROM CHRIST,
START WITH THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

Life of the mind?



Jesus gives
abundant intellectual life

- New mind
- New glasses
- New framework

IF WE GIVE CHRIST OUR MINDS,
CHRIST WILL GIVE US HIS MIND

What about feelers?



Jesus gives
abundant emotional life

- Joy
- Peace
- Confidence
- Hope

WE CAN HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST
AND THE FEELINGS OF CHRIST

Action?

