**What Kind Of Life?**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 19th, 2020

Text: Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10

### Intro

1. When one dies and their life is summarized on a tombstone or urn, you see their name and the dates of their life.
   1. Your Name Here (Birth – Death)
   2. The dash is all that remains to tell others that they lived!
   3. When you visit a cemetery or mausoleum and don’t know the people or their families, all you see is their names and dates, and left to wonder what kind of life does that dash represent that they lived?
   4. In the end, what will really matter is if we are remembered as “a Faithful Servant of God.”
   5. Even if no one else remembers or knows, it will be eternally important for God to know!
2. Saints and all people are warned to prepare to meet God – Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10
3. We will give an account for that dash and the life it represents: What kind of life did we live?
   1. Rom. 2:16; 14:12: We will give account for our deeds (II Cor. 5:10) and how our lives measured up to the standard of Jesus!
   2. We will not be able to “ride the faith” of another.
   3. The Jews wanted to claim righteousness on the basis of Abraham (Lk. 3:8; Jn. 8:33-59).
   4. It did not matter how righteous Noah, Abraham, or Moses were, it was up to the people to behave accordingly! (Mt. 3:8-12; Lk. 3:7-18: John the Baptist taught the people to repent)
   5. We will be held accountable for how we respond to God’s Son (Jn. 12:48).
4. I Pet. 4:17-19:
   1. All of mankind needs to be ready for the Judgment Day!
   2. Saints are no exception – in fact, Peter says saints will be judged first! (Consistent with the order of events described by Jesus in Mt. 25:34-39)
5. When we meet God and stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ we will give an account for that dash! ***What kind of life do you live?***

#### What Is the Center of Your Life?

* 1. This is a question of worship.
  2. Eccl. 12:13-14 (NKJ): To fear God and keep His commandments is man’s all! (Mk. 12:30: Jesus said we are to love God with all that we are!)
     1. II Chr. 14:4: Asa commanded Judah “to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.”
     2. Mt. 6:33: Jesus commanded His followers to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”
     3. Rom. 14:8: Paul said, “Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”
     4. Phil. 1:21: Paul also said, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
  3. Eph. 3:21: Saints are to glorify Christ in the church!
  4. My Purpose in Life is to Glorify God! – Are you focused on glorifying God?

#### What Is the Character of Your Life?

* 1. This is a question of discipleship.
  2. Eccl. 12:13-14 (NKJ): To fear God and keep His commandments is man’s all!
     1. Eph. 2:10: As we belong to Christ (made a new creature – II Cor. 5:17), so we ought to walk in Christ, to walk in “good works” which have been prepared for us “beforehand.”
     2. Titus 2:11-14: As God’s people we are to be “Zealous for good deeds.”
  3. I Cor. 11:1: We are to imitate Christ! (Eph. 5:1)
     1. I Pet. 2:21: Christ is our example! (Phil. 2:15; Titus 2:11-14: Saints to be holy and godly, “above reproach in the midst of a perverse and crooked generation”)
     2. II Pet. 3:10-12: Knowing the world will be burned up with fire one day, we are to be holy and godly in our conduct!
  4. My Purpose in Life is to Become Like Christ! – Are you focused on becoming Christ-like?

#### What Is the Service of Your Life?

* 1. This is a question of service – to God and to others.
  2. Serve God:
     1. Rom. 12:3-8: We are all members of the same body so are to fulfill our individual abilities as God has given to each of us! (Rom. 12:11)
  3. Serve One Another (Others):
     1. II Cor. 9:12-15: Paul told the Corinthians their contribution of funds to the needy saints in Jerusalem *(I Cor. 16:3-5; II Cor. 8-9)* was a service that fully supplied the saints there and demonstrated the grace of God in their generosity.
     2. I Pet. 4:8-10: Saints are to love and serve one another! (Gal. 5:13)
  4. Rom. 12:9-13: In serving God we will serve one another! (Phil. 2:4)
  5. My Purpose in Life is to Serve Others! – Are you focused on serving others?

#### What Is the Fellowship of Your Life?

* 1. This is a question of association – who do you spend time with?
  2. Eph. 3:14-15: As saints we are members of God’s family (Rom. 8:14-17; I Tim. 3:15)
     1. Mk. 10:28-30: Jesus promised as saints we would have family the world over!
     2. Rom. 12:10; Gal. 6:10: We are to show “preference” for one another.
     3. I Cor. 15:33: It is important who we associate with! (Eph. 5:11; I Pet. 4:3-5)
  3. Rom. 12:5: As saints we are all part of the body of Christ *(His church – Col. 1:18)*
     1. *Eph. 5:23: Christ is the “Savior of the body”*
  4. My Purpose in Life is to Be in the Body of Christ! – Are you focused on the fellowship of God’s people?

#### What Is the Mission of Your Life?

* 1. This is a question of obedience!
  2. Acts 2:36-41: The act of obedience in baptism leads to the forgiveness of sins!
     1. Acts 22:16: Ananias (22:12) told Paul to be baptized to wash away his sins!
     2. Baptism also the way to call on His name (obedience – Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:13)
     3. Baptism just the beginning! (Rom. 6:4; I Pet. 2:1-3)
  3. Acts 8:4: Persecution caused the rapid growth of the church because saints went everywhere preaching the word of God!
     1. II Cor. 5:10-11, 18-21: Knowing about the Judgment Day “we persuade men” by teaching the gospel, which reconciles man to God through the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:13-16).
     2. II Tim. 2:2, 24-26; 4:2: Paul instructed Timothy to teach others who would teach others; saints are to “be able to teach” and to “preach the word.”
  4. Acts 20:24: Paul said he wanted to complete his “course” (mission) of preaching the gospel! (Rom. 10:14-15; II Tim. 4:6-8)
  5. My Purpose in Life is to Teach the Good News! – Are you focused on teaching the gospel?

## Conclusion

1. We need to answer these questions now while the dash is still growing (while we are alive to make corrections).
2. One day the dash will be fixed and we will give an account of our actions in this life (*Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10)*
3. What will your answer be to “What was the:
   1. Center of your life?”
   2. Character of your life?”
   3. Service of your life?”
   4. Fellowship of your life?”
   5. Mission of your life?”
4. I Pet. 3:15: We are to be ready to give a defense (answer) of our hope (faith) to people who ask us in this life!
5. What kind of life are you living?
6. Have you prepared to give an account (answer) to God one day?
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized!
8. If a Christian in error, Repent & be renewed. Remember from what you have been saved from!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!