

TRUE ESSENCE OF LIFE

Text: John 10:10

Introduction:

Story of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson on a camping trip

What do we see?

Where we stand determines what we see.

What we see will define our “perspective” or “worldview”.

We need to stand where Jesus stood so we can clearly see what the purpose and true essence of life is.

We are not ignorant of his devises. 2 Cor. 2:11

The enemy’s plan is spelt out clearly in this verse and how he is going to carry out his plan.

He wants to...

1. STEAL

The very first thing that the thief will do is to steal the J.O.Y.om you.

Ps. 51:12, “*Restore to me the joy of Your salvation*”

JOY is an acronym. **JESUS – OTHERS – YOU**

- ***How is your relationship with Jesus?***
- ***How is your relationship with others?***
- ***How are you treating yourself?***

It is his idea for you not to succeed in all forms and aspects of human relationship.

We are called to thrive in life by loving God and others including ourselves.

2. KILL

He will sow lies to take the life out of you. He wants you and I to only exist (do your daily routine) but not thrive and live.

Another term for the word kill is ***quench***.

1 Thes. 5:19, *“Do not quench the Spirit”*.

We can either fan the fire of the Holy Spirit or quench Him by fear, unrighteous and deliberate sinful living.

3. DESTROY

Part of his plan is to destroy the very purpose of your life by taking the truth away from you and reduce you to nothing.

The most pitiable person is the one who lived and died not knowing the purpose of God in his or her life.

Having said all that, here is the other side of the coin...

John 10:10

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

The life that He is offering is a totally different kind of life – an “ABUNDANT LIFE”.

A life that is full of purpose

A life that is hidden in Christ

A life that is not controlled by fear

Free from the power and penalty of sin

Free from condemnation

A kind of life that is led and empowered by the Holy Spirit

The word abundant comes from the Greek word “*perissos*” which is used 26 times in the NT.

The original word “***perissos***” literally means...
exceedingly, over and above, supremely, much more than all, superior, extraordinary, surpassing, more remarkable, more excellent.

It is the root word of the English word ***periscope***.

Through it, they can see and experience what is happening on the water surface while they are underneath the water.

Matt. 6:10, "let your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

Read 2 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 1:15-23

The Bible is clear that our new life is a reality.

2 Cor. 5:17 talks about this life when it says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. Old things have passed away and new things have come."*

And Jesus calls that life *"abundant"* in *John 10:10*.

This new life we have in Christ must mean more than merely material blessings.

This new life that we have is measured by the presence of Christ.

Many people in the Bible and throughout history have had lives of struggle, suffering and pain, yet they have experienced abundant life.

What is the true essence of life?

The Greek noun "zoe" means life.

The essence of life is union.

The most important aspect of life is a relationship with God.

Spiritual life is the union or oneness with God through faith in Christ.

This is the life that Jesus came to give us. He intended us to enjoy the blessings of that life, that relationship in abundance.

Therefore, everyone will exist forever, but not everyone will live forever.

The essence of life is union with Christ.
Without it, people only exist but not truly live.

Jesus is our greatest example.

He showed us what abundant life is all about.

For Him, life is not measured by material possessions and personal achievements.

For Christ, life is measured by the presence of God in His life.

Jesus was also tempted by the *father of lies*.

Satan tried to steal the joy, but His joy is in God's Word alone.

Satan tried to kill Jesus when he asked Jesus to throw himself down, but Jesus followed the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Satan tried to destroy His destiny and the very purpose of his coming but Jesus was 100%

determined to fulfill the the purpose of the Father in His life.

Jesus' union with the Father brought meaning and purpose in His life.

Jesus lived this abundant life.

And He is offering this to anyone.

“He came to give you life and to have it more abundantly”.