1 – **A Beautiful Life**

God’s Promises For **This Present Life** & **The Life To Come** (1 Timothy 4:8)

2 - **The Life That Now Is…**

* In Luke 18:29-30; Jesus addressed both ***“the present life”*** and ***“the life to come”*** in promising God’s blessings.
* How are Christians today to manage their ***“present life”*** while keeping focused on the ***“life to come”*?**
* **They understood the challenge** & it is so for us as well.
* Being disciples of Christ and believers in the word of God, **we need to look to the Bible to help navigate our life here** in **preparation for the life to come**.

3 - **The Wisdom of Solomon From God**

**Only with God** can we **find true fulfillment**.

* *“This also I have seen that* ***it is from the hand of God****. For* ***who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him****?”* (Eccles. 2:24-26; 3:12; 5:19-20; 6:2; 9:8-10; compare to Heb. 11:25)

4 - **The Wisdom of Solomon From God**

1. **Ecclesiastes 11:9,** *“****Rejoice****, young man, during your (youth), and let your heart be pleasant …and follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes.* ***Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these thing****s.”*
2. **Ecclesiastes 11:10,** *“So,* ***remove*** *grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.”*
3. **Ecclesiastes 12:1,** *“****Remember******your Creator*** *in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, ‘I have no delight in them’”.*

5 - **The Wisdom of Solomon From God**

*“****The conclusion, when all has been heard: fear God and keep His commandments****, because this applies to every person (for this is the whole duty of man, ESV; for this is the whole of man, ASV; for this is man’s all, NKJV).* ***For God will bring every act to judgment****, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil*.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

6 - **The Deceit of our Adversary**

God would have us to seek Him first and then give Him the glory, honor and thanks for all the enjoyment we have in this life.

Satan would have us to seek the pleasure and enjoyment first and only give to God what is leftover.

Satan would have us to be ***“lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God”***. (2 Timothy 3:4; cf., Philippians 3:19)

Satan’s lie: **“God wants me to be happy!”**

God’s truth: **He wants to bless you with more than happiness**.

7 - **What is our duty?**

**Recognize we all have temporal needs & trust God!** (1 Kings 19:7; Acts 27:33-34;1 Samuel 14:29; Matthew 6:33)

**Loving others** as we **love ourself**. (Matthew 22:39; Galatians 5:14)

* ***“Love”*** - from the Greek “agapao” which has as it’s core meaning “**seeking the best for**”.
* **How do we have “agape” love for ourselves?**
* **We address first what is best for us in *“the life to come”* and then the *“present life”.* (1 Timothy 4:8)**

8 - **God’s Promises**

**Provisions: We will have what we need if we…**

1. **Seek Him** above all else. (Matthew 6:33; 7:7; Jeremiah 29:11-13)
2. **Reverence** and **Fear Him**. (Eccles. 12:13; Psalms 145:19)
3. **Love Him** completely. (Deut. 10:12; Mark 12:30)
4. **Follow Him** explicitly. (Micah 4:1-2; Psalms 25:8-12; Matthew 16:24; John 10:27)

9 - **God’s Promises**

**Fellowship** as our **Intercessor** & **Advocate**:

* (1 John 1:7; 2:1; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)

Which leads to **peace:**

* **God seeks to bless us with a peace this world can neither provide or even comprehend.** (John 14:27; Philippians 4:4-7)

10 - **The Lord’s Directive**

**Lose our life to gain it**. (The great paradox!)

Matthew 16:25, *“For* ***whoever wishes to save his life will lose it****; but* ***whoever loses his life for My sake will find it****.”* (What life?)

* What if we ***“gain the whole world and forfeit our soul***”? (vs. 26)
* What is it that we “***find***”? (Luke 18:29; 16:23-25; Deut. 6:24)

The brethren of Macedonia understood the need to ***“lose”*** their life for Christ’s sake as they ***“first gave themselves to the Lord”***. (2 Corinthians 8:5; cf., Galatians 2:20)

11 - **The Lord’s Directive**

**Empty ourself to become full**.

Philippians 2:5-7, *“****Have this attitude in yourselves*** *which was also in Christ Jesus… e****mptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant****…”*

Luke 1:53, *“****He has filled the hungry*** *with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed.”* (Psalms 107:9)

**“None of self; and all of Thee”.**

The ultimate joy under the sun is found in offering ourselves as living sacrifices unto God. (Rom.12:1-2)

12 - **Two Approaches To Life**

**Deny self**

**Take up your cross**

**Follow Christ**

**Lose your life for His sake**

**Forsake the world**

**Keep your soul**

**Share His reward/glory**

**Live for yourself**

**Ignore the cross**

**Follow the world**

**Save your life for your sake**

**Gain the world**

**Lose your soul**

**Lose His reward/glory**

**13 – God’s Invitation.**

**Rejoice and give glory to God for all He blesses you with in this life!** (Eccles. 3:12; 5:19; Philippians 4:4-6)

**The best is yet to come!** (1 Peter 4:13; Eccles. 11:8)

* **Moses understood that!** (Hebrews 11:24-26)

Always live with **God’s judgment in mind**. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10, 17, 20)