



July 1999

Ready for some Summer yet? Well, ready or not, here it be. What a good time just to take a few steps back and enjoy what God is doing in us and for us.

The last few months we've been looking at some rather heavy subjects. First it was the seven deadly sins (April-May) and then the subject of false gods (June). This month I want to follow that up in a much more upbeat vein. The reason we put off that which is imperfect and inadequate is twofold. We need to put away sin because it's offensive to God and harmful to us, but we also need to put it away in order to receive what God wanted us to have all along.

We ended up with the phrase, often used derisively, **Get a Life!** Surprisingly, that's a very Scriptural concept. It could almost be synonymous with receiving Jesus, for *In him was **LIFE** and the **LIFE** was the light of men.* (Jn 1:4) Christ said that while the thief came to steal, kill and destroy, *I am come that they may have **LIFE**, and that they may have it more abundantly.* (Jn 10:10)

A synonym for the Gospel in the Book of Acts was *all the words of **this LIFE*** (Acts 5:20). Not only does our Lord give us life, but the life is His very self and presence. Christianity without Christ would be nothing—a big, fat zero.

Our Lord defined eternal life this way: *And this is **Life** eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.* (Jn 17:3) Every person is actually destined to exist forever but some will

experience eternal life and others eternal death, or torment.

Life in God's presence is fun! *Thou wilt shew me the path of **Life**: in thy presence is fullness of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore!* (Psalm 16:11)

There is a death to self we must experience in order to enter into this **LIFE** of God. *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the **LIFE** I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* (Gal 2:20).

Romans chapter six develops this theme further, showing us that when we were baptized we were identified with the death of Christ and ceremonially buried with Him. When we came back up out of the water we partook of the power of His resurrection.

Because of that we are dead to our old life and **ALIVE UNTO GOD**. Anyone struggling with habits and temptations would do well to memorize this chapter and let the power of God's word work deeply within.

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of **LIFE**;*

*(For the **LIFE** was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)*

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ

And these things write we unto you that your joy may be full. (1 Jn 1:1-4)

Nothing looses the fellowship of the believers like that **LIFE** of God that comes coursing through our being when we just give Him a chance. If we'll separate ourselves from anything that hinders our seeking of God and make a special point to seek him, He would meet us more than halfway.

Perhaps the greatest exhortation on this subject was given by Moses in one of his farewell speeches to Israel. *I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: **THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE!*** (Deut 20:19).

Events

Looks like the biggest thing this month is an all church event, the City Summer Celebration. Let's be sure we all get involved, invite a few friends, pass out a few handouts, and try to hook up some needy people with the ministry that will be taking place. That's sharing life and nothing increases our life and joy in the Lord like sharing it around. See you there!...

Turnout has been light at the prayer center lately for the Tuesday night times. Remember folks, if we can't keep ourselves lifted into the realm of the spiritual, then life will be a painful subject. That's true of individuals, it's also true of groups. Anything worth building has to be done through prayer. Can we count on you?

M- has returned from his season of living in England. Saturday the Seventeenth we are planning a barbecue at M-'s place and will have him share about his trip with us. He says he has six hours of video but will

have some highlights selected by the time we get there.

S- says Let's do another barbecue for the monthly meeting on the thirtieth. Come at 6:30 and bring something for the grill.

The only SNAC this month will be at Gustave's on Sandy again. Come to think of it, I've been ready for some of their hearty fixin's. Haven't decided at this point between the English Shepherd's Pie or the good old Rotisserie Turkey Dinner but I'll have it sorted out by then.

I may take a month or two off from doing the newsletter this summer but we'll at least get the calendar out. It's been a busy year, and I need to get a few more blocks of time into my house here. We'll see how it goes.

Looks like that's about it. Let's remember to keep one another lifted up in prayer.

Have a great month!

GAH

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