

## The Answer For Dead Christianity

### **How Much More...**

Romans 5:6-21 John 10:10

Jesus gave His life **for me**,  
to take My life **from me**,  
so He could live His life **through me**.

### **The Importance Of Jesus' Death And Life:**

Romans 5:8-10 John 14-17 Acts 1:8 Galatians 2:20

His Death: Changes where **I'm going**.  
His Life: Changes who **I am**.

His Death: Allowed me to become a **Christian**.  
His Life: Allows me to be the Christian I've **become**.

His Death: Made Heaven my **home**.  
His Life: Gives this life **meaning**.

His Death: Got me out of Hell and into **Heaven**.  
His Life: Gets God out of Heaven and into **me**.

His Death: Forgave my **sin**.  
His Life: Gives me power over **sin**.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 5, 2017

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Chris talked about his misunderstanding of what the Christian life was like while he was growing up. Can you think of any misunderstandings you had about Christianity, Christians or the church when you were growing up?

2. What was your reaction to Chris' statement that "Jesus gave his life for me, to take my life from me, so he could live his life through me"?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Experiencing an abundant life can seem like a confusing goal.

Jesus simplifies it in a talk he had with his disciples where he used a vineyard analogy to explain what it takes to grow in him. Read John 15:1-8 and jot down what role each of the main characters has (God, Jesus and the believer) and the responsibility each has in the spiritual growth process.

**John 15:1-8** *New International Version (NIV)*

*The Vine and the Branches*

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

In what ways could understanding these differing roles and responsibilities affect your spiritual growth?

What might be some reasons God wants people relying on his power for service and ministry and not just their own power?

Can you think of an example in your own life that has been helpful in reminding you of your need to rely on God's power?

2. Chris talked about us living a "how much more" life. How do you see that kind of life reflected in the following quote by Bible translator, J.B. Phillips?

*The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these [New Testament] letters, is that to us, it is primarily a performance; to them it was a real experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion to a code or, at best, a rule of heart and life. To these men it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life together. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ living in them. We are practically driven to accept their own explanation, which is that their little human lives had, through Christ, been linked up with the very life of God.*

Which statements in Galatians 5:16-26 expand your understanding of what the "how much more" life could look like?

**Galatians 5:16-26** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever<sup>[a]</sup> you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

3. John 15 (*reference your Bible*) gives us a great picture of what it means to stay connected to Jesus because the power to live an abundant life comes from him. The challenge is to stay connected consistently. What help do the following verses offer us for staying connected in our relationship with Jesus?

**Psalms 139:23-24** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

**James 4:17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

**Matthew 5:23-24** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,<sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

**Romans 12:18** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Can you think of anything from these verses that you could start or stop doing to help you stay consistently connected to Jesus?

### TAKING IT HOME

1. Chris used a trip to Disneyland to illustrate what living without experiencing all that God has for us is like. If you were to put yourself into that illustration, where do you see yourself standing right now?

2. Looking back over this week's sermon and homework, what's the most important thing for you to remember?

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### Praise/Prayer Requests:

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