

Abundant Life

Everyone wants a good life. That idea might make you think of the accumulation of money and things. Or you might hear that and think of a long life. Still another way of interpreting it could have to do with fame and notoriety. The meaning of that first sentence might be debated, but the idea of a good life would very likely never be turned down. Yet, Jesus interprets that in a much different way than most of us do. It is what He calls abundant life and it doesn't have anything to do with money, stuff, length of life, fame, or notoriety. The abundant life He names in John 10:10 is contrary to the life the deceiver offers through the world: that "life" steals, kills, and destroys.

Think of how many of the things mentioned in the first paragraph ultimately steal happiness, kill the spirit, and destroy relationships? How many famous people have ended their lives? How many rich people are frustrated and stressed? Even those who have lived a long life have sometimes experienced that many of the later years are frustrating because of the ultimate decline in health that inevitably happens to us. Don't get me wrong those things are not bad in and of themselves. There are faithful men and women who have navigated fame, fortune, and longevity of life. The stark difference is where they placed their trust and ultimate focus. Did they build their life on the rock – the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 7:24-27) – and set their hope on Him rather than the uncertainty of this life's riches (1 Timothy 6:17). If so, the things of this life can be considered blessings and opportunities to benefit those around us.

In the parable of the talents everyone received different amounts, but each were expected to use whatever they were given in the service of the Master (Matthew 25:14-30). God expects the same from us. In that giving of ourselves and living in the service of the King we will find the abundant life so many long for. It is not dependent on the external condition of our lives. His abundant life can be found in a life lived in a spotlight of fame or in a remote village of less than 100 people. His abundance can be experienced with millions of dollars or a widow's mite. And whether you live to be 100 or something unforeseen takes you from this place far earlier, you can experience an abundant life that includes this mortal one, but far exceeds it – into eternity.

- Mark Little, Tanner Church of Christ, Tanner, AL -

When God gives, He gives more than enough.

News Notes

BAPTISM: Cortland Richmond on **July 12th**.

MEN'S RETREAT: **July 31st-August 1st** at NOCYC, Lisbon, OH on the topic: *Men of the Cross*, Gal. 6:14. Ages 12+, \$55 per person. Additional details on the bulletin board.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: **Next Saturday, August 1st, 8:00 a.m.** at Sweet Rocks (formerly Coplin's) in Newell.

COVERED DISH DINNER: **Next Sunday, August 2nd, about Noon** at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon 2:00 p.m. worship** at the Church Building.

NORTH CENTRAL OHIO BIBLE LECTURESHIP: **August 2-5**, Lorain, OH. Additional details on the bulletin board.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes **Tuesday, August 4th, 11:00 a.m.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST: **Saturday, August 8th, 8:30 a.m.** at the Columbi-ana Church of Christ.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: A celebration of **Linda Parkes'** life on **Saturday, August 8th, 1:00 p.m.** here at the church building. A luncheon will follow at the Fellowship Building for family and friends. See Rosie Burdine if you can help with the meal.

YOUTH RALLY: **Saturday, August 29th, 9:00 a.m.-Lunch.** Lubeck Church of Christ, Washington, WV. "*Understanding the Will of God for my life.*" Lunch provided. Additional details on the bulletin board.

PANTRY: Men's & women's deodorant.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

WEIRTON MEDICAL: Nancy Cox, Room 848.

HOME: Anita Hopwood, Randy Beagle, Donna Stevens, Peggy Linger, Charlotte Jones, Harry Huff, .

FOX, CHESTER: Marlene Evans, Mary Johnson.

SERRA MANOR, WEIRTON: Jean Haught (Skip's mother).

ADDITIONAL SICK & SHUT-IN: See insert in this bulletin.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m.
on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

*"O Thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Steams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise."*

- Robert Robinson -