

We Live for the Lord, and We Die for the Lord!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **whether we live or die, we do it for the Lord, not for ourselves**

- **illus. song #335: Live For Jesus**

Live for Jesus, live for Jesus
Give Him all thou hast to give;
On the cross the world's Redeemer,
Gave His life that thou mightst live.

- **lesson:** We Live for the Lord, and We Die for the Lord!

➤ We are the Lord's – we live for Him, and die for Him!

- **Rom. 14:7-8** therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's

- **1 Cor. 6:19-20** aren't your own, bought with price, glorify God in your body

- **1 Pet. 1:18-19** redeemed (bought) with **blood of Jesus**

- **live for the Lord, and die for the Lord**

- **because** you are the Lord's – bought

- **our obligation** – the deal (covenant) we make with God when we're saved through Christ's blood (baptized)

➤ To live for the Lord, we can't live for ourselves, or anyone (anything) else!

- **examples of people and things folks live for** – briefly explain each

- spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, children, parents, friends, job, boss, popularity and prestige and notoriety, fun and recreation, material possessions, wealth, etc. – **Christians live for the Lord**

- **Rom. 14:7-8a** we don't live for self, don't die for self – live and die for the Lord

- **2 Cor. 5:14-15** motivation: love of Christ controls us, no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf

- **1 Pet. 2:24** Jesus bore our sins in His body, cross, by His wounds we were healed

- **Gal. 5:6** faith works through love

- **we're living for the Lord, not for ourselves**

- **1 Cor. 6:19-20** not our own, bought with a price, glorify God not self

- **we're living for the Lord, not living to please anyone but Him**

- **illus.: work and school**, we work as unto the Lord, submitting to employer (teacher), not seeking to please men with eyeservice (Eph. 6:6), but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord (Col. 3:22)

- **To live for the Lord, we have to seize the moment!** – make the most of our time
 - **Eph. 5:15-16** wise, making most of your time – nec. to live for the Lord
 - **KJ: redeeming the time**, a metaphor, buying up time by making the best use of it – wasted in the past, not buy it back
 - **All of us can make better use of our time, to be more fruitful in God's kingdom!**
 - **illus.: American waste a lot of time, some of which we could use better is service to God**
 - **Someone has calculated how a typical life span of 70 years is spent. Here is the estimate:**
 - Sleep: 23 years (32.9%)
 - Work: 16 years (22.8%)
 - TV: 8 years (11.4%)
 - Eating: 6 years (8.6%)
 - Travel 6 years (8.6%)
 - Leisure: 4.5 years (6.5%)
 - Illness 4 years (5.7%)
 - Dressing: 2 years (2.8%)
 - Religion 0.5 years (0.7%)
 - **In an average lifetime, the average American spends**
 - 3 years in business meetings
 - 13 years watching TV
 - Spends \$89,281 on food,
 - consumes 109,354 pounds of food
 - Makes 1811 trips to McDonalds (restaurants, aem)
 - Spends \$6881 in vending machines
 - Eats 35,138 cookies and 1483 pounds of candy
 - Catches 304 colds,
 - Is involved in 6 motor vehicle accidents, is hospitalized 8 times (men) or 12 times (women),
 - Spends 24 years sleeping.
- SermonIllustrations.com, Our Daily Bread, November 25, 1992
- (SermonIllustrations.com, Tom Heymann, In an Average Lifetime)
- **without exploring the validity of the estimates, they reinforce what we all know, we have the opportunity to do more for God and His kingdom, by better use of our time**
 - **self evaluation:**
 - **What can you do to make better use of your time**, and be more fruitful in God's kingdom?
 - **If you had one week to live**, what would you do that week, that you're not doing now? – **Why?**
 - **Are you making necessary changes in your life**, to make better use of your time, and be more fruitful?
 - **Are you seizing the moment?** – making the most of your time – today is the day of salvation
 - **Erma Bombeck: Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the Titanic who waved off the dessert cart.**

- **To live for the Lord, we must be committed to die for Him!** - ready to die in His service without any question
 - **Rom. 14:8** live for the Lord, die for the Lord, we are the Lord's
 - **committed to die: by considering our mortal body as dead**
 - **Col. 2:11-13** when we are baptized into Christ we die – buried, raised up – **Rom. 6:3-7**
 - **Col. 3:1-2, 5** as Christian, raised up with Christ, consider earthly body as dead
 - **1 Cor. 15:31** daily, Paul died daily
 - **do you make the same commitment every day**
 - **committed to die: physical death**
 - **R- Acts 21:13b** ready to die for the name of the Lord
 - **Rev. 2:10** faithful until death, and receive the crown of life
 - **are you ready to die for the name of the Lord**
 - **to live for the Lord, we must be committed to die for Him**
 - **daily:** considering earthly body as dead
 - **physically:** ready to die physically, if necessary
- **If we die for the Lord, we'll rejoice in that day!**
 - **Rev. 14:13** those who die in the Lord are blessed – happy, rejoice
 - **2 Cor. 5:1-2, 8** groan, longing to die and go to heaven, be with the Lord – rejoice when happens
 - **illus.:** grandmother when she died, happy for her, be with Lord, husband – see you later
 - **illus.:** death, rejoice
 - **Around 125 A.D., a Greek by the name of Aristeides** wrote to one of his friends, trying to explain the extraordinary success of the new religion, Christianity. **In his letter he said,** "If any righteous man among the Christians passes from this world, they rejoice and offer thanks to God, and they accompany his body with songs and thanksgiving as if he were setting out from one place to another nearby." (SermonIllustrations.com, Today in the Word, April 10, 1993)
 - **shouldn't this be our attitude, although a part of us is still sad** – more happy for them, than sad for ourselves
 - **If I die, I want you to be happy for me!**
 - If you die, I'll be happy for you, more than I'm sad for me!

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- “**now**” (today) is the only time we have to live for the Lord

- **2 Cor. 6:2** now (today) is the day of salvation

- **illus.:** don't wait, may run out of time – make the best of your time

- **Gen. William Nelson**, a **Union general in the Civil War**, was consumed with the battles in Kentucky when a brawl ended up in his being shot, mortally, in the chest. He had faced many battles, but the fatal blow came while he was relaxing with his men. As such, he was caught fully unprepared. As men ran up the stairs to help him, the general had just one phrase, "Send for a clergyman; I wish to be baptized." He never had time as an adolescent or young man. He never had time as a private or after he became a general. And his wound did not stop or slow down the war. Everything around him was left virtually unchanged--except for the general's priorities. With only minutes left before he entered eternity, the one thing he cared about was preparing for eternity. He wanted to be baptized. Thirty minutes later he was dead. (SermonIllustrations.com. Christian Times, October 3, 1994, p. 26)

- **if we don't live for the Lord today, we can't die for Him later** – lost eternally in our sins

- **inv.:** be right with God now (today) – don't wait – may be your last chance (not scare, but warn)