

Christ Is Our Life

1 John 5:12

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org



FOCAL Read Together 1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Conservative Christians were shocked - and upset - when the President of the United States remarked that "we are no longer a Christian nation". I don't believe that the President was trying to put down Christians, but I do believe that God's Church needs to wake up and realize that there is a great deal of truth in what he said. Our country was founded by Christians - Pilgrims - and became independent under the leadership of a number of godly Christian men. The basis of our legal system is found in the Ten Commandments of Exodus chapter twenty. The Ten Commandments are - in fact - inscribed on the walls of the Supreme Court of the United States, a testament to this great truth. Being found upon Christian principles our country has always sought to avoid various *state religions*. Christians do not believe that people can be won to Christ at the point of a sword. True believers came to this country to escape the persecution that state controlled religion always brings. We were founded Christian, and therefore believed that every person had the inalienable right to choose - or not choose - Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. No one is forced into a relationship with Jesus. The Scripture - and the Christian - loudly proclaim *whosoever will*. He that believes on Jesus is not condemned in the sight of God: but he that will not believe is in a state of divine condemnation, because he has not believed in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (John 3:18).

In 1990 statistician **George Barna** wrote in his book "**The Frog In The Teakettle**": "**Incredibly most**

Christians don't perceive the church to be in the most severe struggle it has faced in centuries." There was a time when the Church - and practicing Christians - had a degree of respect in society. Those days are rapidly passing. Let me ask you this: when is the last time you saw a practicing Christian - a Christ follower - portrayed in a positive light on *network* television? When Christians are portrayed on television they are either shown as intolerant white collared priests, or abusively righteous religious kooks. Television, on the other hand, has been portraying people in sexual sin (heterosexual or homosexual) in sympathetic ways for twenty years or more. I am told that this year's television lineup has around 65 actors and actresses portraying people in positive homosexual lifestyles. "Religion" is seen as intolerant and inherently unneeded, but as long as people "love" one another - so television portrays it - nothing else matters.

Love is what matters. Truthfully, Christianity is about sharing a loving relationship between God and man. Christ is the bridge to that relationship. **"He that hath the Son hath life"**. Read that again: **"He that HATH the Son HATH life"**. The word the King James translates as **HATH** in our text literally means **"to keep on having and holding"**¹. If you *keep on having and holding the Son then you keep on having and holding life*. This refers to a *relationship with Christ*. The Christian is someone who lovingly and passionately embraces Jesus Christ. **We love Him, for He first loved us (1 John 4:19)**. We are those who *keep on having and holding Jesus*. Jesus Christ is the greatest love of the

¹ the Present Active Participle of the Greek word *echo* (**εχω** pronounced: *ekh'-o*), to keep on having and holding.

Christian. We love Him above all else!

The Christian must carry this love for Christ with him where ever he goes. The Christian - and the local Church - are designed by God to be a bridge by which others can be introduced to Jesus. Jesus described His people as Light. He said:

Matthew 5:14-16 **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. {15} Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. {16} Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

What does light do? Light goes out. It shines. It does not stay within its container, but it reaches out beyond its container to illuminate darker areas. One small candle in a pitch black room will drive back the darkness. Light does not have to be big to be effective. It must just be light. It must not be covered. **Pastor Martin Lloyd Jones** wrote (in his book *Sermon on the Mount* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1959) pg 172):

"The whole purpose of lighting a light is that it may give light. And for a foolish man to cover it with something that prevents that quality from manifesting itself is, we are all agreed, utterly ridiculous. Yes; but remember that our Lord is speaking about us. There is obviously a danger, or at least a temptation, that the Christian may behave in this completely ridiculous and futile manner, and that

is why He emphasizes the matter in this way. He says, **"I have made you something that is meant to be like a light ... Are you deliberately concealing it?" ... To do this is to render ourselves completely useless."**

If we **"have the Son"** then we **"have life"**. If we have life - the Light of God - then we are called to share this light by allowing Christ to live through us. Others need to see Christ in us or we are not doing as God would have us do.

1. The Test Of Life

In **Matthew 4:18-21** we read about the very first disciples that Jesus called to His side. Jesus first of all called **Peter, and Peter's brother Andrew**, saying, **"follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men"**. Peter and Andrew, successful fishermen, *left their nets* to follow the Lord. The next two disciples called were **James and John, the sons of Zebedee**. Of these four men three of them - **Peter, James, and John** - would be the three who would be closest to Jesus. Peter, James, and John would go with Jesus to the **Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1)**, and see Jesus in glorified form talking to Moses and Elijah. These three men would be the only ones allowed to **see Jesus raise a young girl from the dead (Mark 5:37)**. When Jesus was preparing Himself for the terror of the Cross He went to a **Garden called Gethsemane** with all His disciples, but He chose Peter, James, and John to pray with Him (**Matthew 26:36-37**) in those final hours.

John thoroughly grasped what Jesus taught him.

When John saw Jesus at the **Mount of Transfiguration, along with Moses and Elijah**, He saw that Jesus Christ *transcended death*. Who else but God could call Moses and Elijah to this earth in their glorified forms? John saw Jesus when He said over the body of a dead child (**Mark 5:41**)

"Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise."

John watched that child rise from the dead. Jesus Christ is the Source of Life. Furthermore, as John went with Jesus to Gethsemane he would see the Lord taken - judged - and executed. He would see Jesus three days later rise from the grave *just as He promised He would do*. The life that John lived with Jesus would cause him to write these wonderful words:

FOCAL 1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

The test of Life - of True Religion - is found in whether you **have the Son or not. He that has the Son - embraces the Son - holds to the Son - loves the Son above all else - has life!**

John did not write "He that has ritual has life", nor did He say "He that has traditions has life". He that hath the Son hath life! He that embraces Jesus above all else has life!

ILLUSTRATE It is possible to have religion without

Christ. In July 1854 the British criminal **Charlie Peace** was taken from Armley Jail in Leeds to be executed. Following tradition an Anglican priest followed behind the condemned man reading from the Anglican Church Prayer Book. The priest - in a monotone - read "**Those who die without Christ experience hell, which is the pain of forever dying without the release which death itself can bring**". The condemned man stopped, turned, and looked at the priest, and asked "**Do you believe what you just read?**" The startled priest stammered, "**Well, I suppose I do.**" Charlie Leeds said, "**Sir, if I believed what you and the Church ... say you believe about heaven and hell - even if England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it, if need be on my hands and knees, and think it worthwhile living just to save one soul from an eternal hell like that**".²

Life can only be found by those who *have and hold on to Christ*. There is nothing wrong with traditions nor rituals as long as these traditions and rituals do not take the place of loving the Lord.

True and saving religion is found in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

This relationship begins when Jesus calls you, Just like He called John "**follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men**", He called you to salvation. Jesus Christ calls us out of the world to follow Him.

² adapted from *Serious Times* by James E. White, page 161, ISBN 0-8308-3211-4

The Christian is saved by believing on Christ and Christ alone for salvation. That means we reject *all* other ways unto God - *except* faithful trust in Jesus Christ.

The Scripture says in **John 3:36**

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Like John, we hear the Word of Christ. Jesus said in **John 5:24**:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Christ's Word - His Promise - holds life. Jesus Christ is the Bridge between God and man, the only way to receive eternal life. Again we see in **John 6:47**:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

When the Christian - just as **Peter, James and John did** - hears the Word of Christ and, turning from their old life, they **follow Him in faith abandoning all else**. When this is done God - **who looketh on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7)** - gives life to that new believer. He is

indwelt by the Spirit of Christ - the Holy Spirit of God.
We are told in **Romans 8:9** that:

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

The love relationship that John - and all true believers - have with Christ **gives us life, both now and into eternity.**

2. What Shall We Do With This Life?

FOCAL 1 John 5:12 **He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

When the Apostle John wrote of himself, he rarely used his own name. He usually called himself "**the disciple whom Jesus loved**". John clung to Jesus. When Jesus sat down to eat we read in **John 21:20** that "**the disciple whom Jesus loved *leaned on Christ's breast as they ate supper***". John wasn't ashamed of Jesus, but hung on Jesus, like a little brother hangs on a bigger brother. John sought to do things that pleased his Lord. When Jesus looked down from the Cross of Calvary He saw:

John 19:26-27 **[Mary] his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.**

John stayed close to Jesus, making himself available to please the Lord. He *kept on having and holding Jesus*.

When Mary Magdalene came and told **Peter and John that Jesus was missing from the grave** we read that:

John 20:2-5 Then **she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him.** {3} Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulcher. {4} **So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter and came first to the sepulcher.** {5} **And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.**

John outran Peter to the tomb. He embraced the Lord in his love. John loved the Lord with all his heart. Though **Simon Peter** swam to meet Jesus on the shore following His resurrection, it was **John who first recognized Jesus from the fishing boat (John 21:7)**. Jesus never questioned the love of John. When our Lord appeared *the third time* to His disciples He asked prophesied **Peter's death**. Jesus told Peter:

John 21:18-19 **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.**

{19} This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

In death Peter would glorify God by being crucified like Jesus was crucified. After prophesying Peter's death Jesus told the disciples - Peter in particular - "**Follow Me**".

Then something interesting happens. The Bible says:

John 21:20-22 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, ... {21} Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? {22} Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Jesus had just prophesied that **Peter would glorify God by being crucified - just as He was crucified.** When Peter saw John - like a little brother following along - he asked "**what about John? How is he going to die?**" Jesus told Peter, in essence, "**that's none of your business. YOU follow ME.**"

If you are born again, what are you called to do? You are called to follow Jesus. If you *have the Son* then *follow the Son.*

Dallas Willard³ wrote:

³ Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, pg ix, 3-5

We can ... become like Christ by practicing the types of activities He engaged in, by arranging our whole lives around the activities He Himself practiced in order to remain constantly at home in the fellowship of His Father."

The one who **hath the Son** is called of God to **follow the Son**. We are to do the things that He did. Neither the Christian - nor the Church - is to be *inward focused*. We live to glorify Christ. We die to glorify Christ. If we love the Lord, then we will - like the disciples - follow Christ.

Love can never be mere lip service. Love is always an action - or, as Jesus said in His third resurrection appearance, **follow Me.**

Too many Christians - and Churches are inward focused. Michael B. Regele, wrote in his book *The Death Of The Church*, "**The Church's inward focus is a grave illness**". We are not called to live for ourselves, but to live in a growing relationship with Jesus. Our light must shine so that others can see Christ in us! What did Peter tell the Church?

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

Follow Jesus. **Grow in Grace.** Spend time in prayerful meditation of God's Word. Ask the Holy Spirit Who indwells you how to put that word into practice. Pastor

Andrew Murray wrote:⁴

"Read God's Word with great reverence. Meditate a moment in silence on the thought that the words come from God Himself. ... Let Him reveal His Word in your heart. ... Read with careful attention. ... Read with the expectation of the guidance of God's Spirit. It is God's Spirit alone that can make the Word a living power in our hearts and lives. ... Read with the firm purpose of keeping the Word day and night in your heart and in your life. The whole heart and the whole life must come under the influence of the Word. ... The Word teaches you not only what you are, but also what you may become through God's Grace."

If you **hath the Son** then your life is to be a living and growing relationship with Jesus. Consider **Peter and his shadow, John**. Both had different destinies, but the same goal.

Each Christian has a different destiny. **Peter** would glorify the Lord by his death on a cross like Christ's. **John** would glorify the Lord by being exiled to the island of Patmos. One would die suffering, but glorifying the Lord. The other would live suffering, but glorifying the Lord. Both would change their worlds by following Jesus.

We have no power - nor any life on our own. We are to remember that:

4 in *God's Best Secret*, ISBN 30809 68559, Whitaker House, pgs 19-20

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

3. Our Success Is Based On Faithfulness To God

FOCAL 1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Every day that we live we have choices to make. We can choose to follow the world, or we can choose to follow the Lord. **He that hath - keeps on having and holding the Son - hath life.** This is an absolute principle.

There is absolutely no life apart from Christ. To be free to sail the seven seas, you must first make yourself a slave to the compass. Christ is the Christian's compass!

My job as a believer is to cling to Jesus - like John held to Jesus - and to leave the results to the Lord. That means that - when given a choice - I must always choose *on the side of Christ*. To choose away from Christ is to choose second best, or *death*.

Before the children of Israel - God's Old Testament Saints - entered the Promised Land the Lord warned them. He said:

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 ... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: {20} That thou

mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

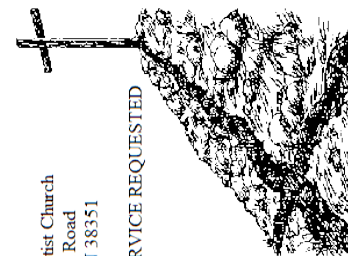
What was the target that God wanted Israel to shoot for? Was it the Promised Land? No! If that was the case the Lord would have given the first generation of Israel the Promised Land forty years prior to this proclamation.

God told Israel choose life, and then, just a few words later He said the Lord is your life, and the length of your days. The target Israel - and God's Church - is to hit is to hold on to God, to obey Him and Him only, and to cling to Him.

We will not cling to anything but the Lord our God. Our target will be to *go* as He has told us to go, to *grow* as He has told us to grow, and to tell others what we know to be true.

He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son hath not life.

Choose Christ and live!



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FOCAL Read Together 1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

1. The Test Of Life

Matthew 4:18-21; Matthew 17:1; Mark 5:37;
Matthew 26:36-37; Mark 5:41; 1 John 5:12; John 3:36; John 5:24; John 6:47; 1 Samuel 16:7; Romans 8:9

- John did not write "He that has _____ has life", nor did He say "He that has _____ has life". He that hath the Son hath life! He that embraces Jesus above all else has life!

- True and saving religion is found in a _____ with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Christian is saved by _____ on Christ and Christ alone for salvation. That means we reject *all* other ways unto God - *except* _____ in Jesus Christ.

2. What Shall We Do With This Life?

1 John 5:12; John 21:20; John 19:26-27; John 20:2-5;
John 21:7; John 21:18-19; John 21:20-22; 2 Peter 3:18; Colossians 3:3

- John _____ to Jesus, making himself _____ to please the Lord. He *kept on having and holding Jesus*.

- If you are born again, what are you called to do? _____ . If you *have the Son* then _____ .

- Love can never be mere _____. Love is always an _____ - or, as Jesus said in His third resurrection appearance, **follow Me**.

- Each Christian has a different destiny. **Peter** would glorify the Lord by _____. **John** would glorify the Lord by _____. One would die suffering, but glorifying the Lord. The other would live suffering, but glorifying the Lord. Both would change their worlds by _____ .

3. Our Success Is Based On Faithfulness To God

1 John 5:12; ; Deuteronomy 30:19-20

- There is absolutely no life apart from Christ. To be free to sail the seven seas, you must first make yourself a slave to the _____. Christ is the Christian's _____ !

- God told Israel _____, and then, just a few words later He said _____. The target Israel - and God's Church - is to hit is to _____ .