

Living a Life Worthy of This Generation

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Is my life worth living in this generation? This is a question that more and more people are asking as they contend with the confusing realities of life—our fractured politics, scattered media, compromised public schools, distracted youth, disillusioned churchgoers. Where do we turn to so that we may learn how to live a worthy life in this wicked and perverse generation? We search for answers but there is no answer apart from God. Why? Because God is the source of our lives, if we're disconnected from the source of life, then what kind of lives can we live? We have to go back to the beginning to find the answer. The Bible begins, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light (Genesis 1:1-3)." God has the answer to life's confusion. In the beginning the earth was without form and void—what it really means was that it was without order and full of chaos. From the beginning the world was in darkness. But God, by His almighty power, brought forth order and light. Yes, there is hope in our generation because God wants to rescue us out of spiritual darkness into His marvelous light. God can do this because with Him, nothing is impossible.

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "We are what we believe we are." Believing is faith rooted in God's word. The Bible says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)." No one knows our future except God Himself, who holds the future. He controls human history. Thus, we need to have faith in God. "In God We Trust" is not just a meaningless motto. Unless we have faith in God, we cannot solve our many human problems. No matter how much societies have evolved, we have not outgrown sin. Therefore, we need God's forgiveness. Jesus came to forgive our sins by dying on the cross. And He defeated death through the power of His resurrection. He promises He would come back to judge the world. He knows and sees everything we do. Nothing can be hidden from Him.

Jesus came to earth to teach His disciples how to live in their generation. Jesus warned them about the persecution to come, not only from the Roman Empire, but from the forces of unbelief. He encouraged them saying, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid (John 14:27)." Is not the peace of mind, heart, and soul what we need most in this generation? Only then can we seek to live a worthy life for God.

At the 15th anniversary of our church, on March 3, 1996, a few college students at Berkeley composed a heart-felt song to show their gratitude to me and my wife. The song was titled, "Worthy Life" and it captures the spirit and vision of our pastoral ministry from the beginning—to raise leaders who will live worthily for God.

The song begins:

They had little but the vision God had planted in their heart
Driven by a passion for the Lord
Pouring out their love and asking nothing in return
Even though the way was long and hard
Then others caught their vision, many joined to give their lives
Taking up the cross to follow Him.

The refrain continues:

There is no other way, he who gives his life will gain it back again
He who sows in tears will reap with songs of joy
I have found a life worth living for
No riches can compare, with the wealth of love and joy we share
I will follow Him wherever He may lead
For I have found a worthy life.

May you learn to live a worthy life in this generation as you seek the purpose of God each day. God wants all of us to live abundant and victorious lives. There is no better way to live than surrendered to God in obedience to the Word. Let's live a life full of faith, love, and hope, waiting for His Return who promised us the heavenly banquet in celebration of Christ being wed to His bride, the church, family of God, the body of Christ. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!