

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Live & Let Die: How To Live & Die In Christ Jesus
Sermon by Ray Reynolds (9-7-08 AM)

Introduction: Paul was certainly a man of conviction and purpose. In **Philippians 1:21** he says, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." What let him to live with this attitude? How could he practice and teach this no nonsense, no holds barred, and no regrets mentality toward life? We see a few people in the Scriptures who had this attitude (i.e. Joseph – **Genesis 37**, David – **Psalms 51**, and maybe Samson – **Judges 16**). We know that a life of regret and worry brings insecurity, depression, and a helpless and hopeless feeling concerning life. We worry about our relationships, our jobs, career choices, our mistakes, missed opportunities, hasty actions, misspoken words, and ignorant deeds. It's time for us to live a life of no regrets. How can we accomplish this? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Prioritize Your Life – Who or what comes first in your life?

Matthew 6:33-34 – "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Luke 9:23-24 – "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."

II. Pray For Your Faithfulness – How can you strengthen your faith?

James 5:13-16 – "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Jude 20-21 – "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

III. Practice Your Christianity – What does religion really mean to you?

Matthew 7:27-33 – "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Hebrews 12:1-2 – "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

IV. Personalize Your Reward – What does heaven really mean to you?

Psalms 90:12 – "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." – The prayer of Moses recorded in a psalm.

II Timothy 4:6-8 – "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

Conclusion: Someone once said, "Death is not extinguishing the light from the Christian; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come." Are you living a life of regret? Are you ready to live in Christ? Are you prepared to meet the Lord?