

# For Such a Time as This

## A Daily Devotional

### Friday, January 10, 2025

From Romans 14:

**For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.**

Maybe we have heard these words before. Maybe this is the first time we have taken note of them. Either way, we ought to pause and consider their import and meaning, both in their original context and for our own life and times.

Paul makes a bold assertion that our lives are not about self-centered fulfillment, but rather about living towards the Lord. This was as much a counter-cultural statement then as it is now. Such thinking cuts against the grain from what we learn in this world. We are not made to be so self-invested that we have no time or notion of God's presence in our life and in the life of the world.

Karl Barth, in his landmark commentary on this epistle wrote:

**To be strong means that as men we find ourselves involved in a final, unavoidable [crisis]– ‘None of us liveth to himself – Whether we live, we live unto the Lord.’ There is no such thing as life in itself: there is only life in relation to God. ... ‘None dieth to himself – Whether we die, we die unto the Lord.’ There is no such thing as death in itself: there is only death in relation to God.**

Barth makes it clear that there is no such thing as life (or death for that matter) apart from God. Our lives are lived out in the scope of God's gracious care and concern whether we realize it or not. We can opt to not take notice of this and live our lives as if we have no obligation to anyone but ourselves. However, this changes nothing. Nothing changes the truth that our lives are not our own, but rather belong fully and completely to God.

Some within the Christian church believe that God somehow comes into our lives when we have made a definitive choice for God. There can be nothing further from the truth. Our rational decision does not dictate God's involvement in our lives; we are not the Lord, God is. Whether we acknowledge it or not, ‘we live (and die) unto the Lord.’ The difference in our lives can be made when we come to a full realization of this fact and begin to live in response to God's grace and mercy. This is at the very heart of what we are called to be and do as God's people.

**Prayer for the Day: (From *the Valley of Vision*)**

**Eternal God, may all we do be done for the reconciling of the world and for the greater glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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