

For Such a Time as This

A Daily Devotional

Thursday, May 13, 2021



From John 5:

For as the Father has life in himself so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ... You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

If this is not all about life and the life that we have as recipients of God's gracious action of creation, then what is this all about? Of course, it is about life. It is about the kind of life that comes from or finds its origins in Jesus Christ himself. John makes it clear in this portion of his gospel that Jesus is God incarnate upon the earth. When we see Jesus in this gospel, we see God in action and here God's word to us. Further, John holds that all of life finds its origins in Christ himself: "In him was life, and the life was the light of men."

Far too many Christians limit what Christ has brought to us as only pertaining to the next life or eternal life. Here, in this time and space, we have been given life by God and in Jesus Christ we see what it means to really live this life. We are always, as it were, on the verge of something wonderful in this life. We are the verge of the next moment, the next hour, the next day ... we are always living presently with anticipation. It is not that we let this life go by always seeking the next experience, the next big thing, but rather, in Christ, we grasp that the life we have is now and that this life is provided to us by the gracious action of God in Christ. We have this life to live, this is the life that we have been given, and we are called to live in response to the goodness and grace of God.

This should put a different light upon our understanding of life. If Christ is at the root of this great gift, then it should be a life lived with this Christ at the center of our living. This does not mean that we spend every waking minute in the sanctuary, huddled together, offering hymns and biding the time we have for fear of contamination from the outside world. This is the response of some in the past, but this is not what the gospel demands of us. A close hearing of God's good news in Christ is a call to live a life of abundance, a life lived towards the love of God and the love of neighbor; in short, a life that finds its rootedness and expression in the life of Christ.

The life that we are called to in Jesus Christ is as expansive as Christ's life itself – we are called to live this life in a grace that is not only sufficient enough to animate and guide our lives, but large enough to compel us out into the world to reach our neighbors. Yet, the point that John makes should not be missed – what animates all of this in our living is not ourselves or our own power, but rather Jesus Christ himself. For the Christian, Christ is and remains the source of this wondrous life that we have been given and this life that we now live. And for that, we can all be thankful ...

Prayer for the Day: (From *Fifty Prayers*, by Karl Barth)

Lord God, things do no work out without your speaking and working among us. You can do what we cannot. We believe and trust that you will do it – not because we are good and strong, but because you are. Amen.

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