

# THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

Text: John 10:10

**Key Word:** Life

**Key Thought:** Jesus Offers Us a Gospel of Life

The gospel of John (like the Epistle to the Romans) has the gospel message compacted into its limited chapters. This is an excellent book to begin reading as a new convert. The message is so concise and clear that anyone who has a heart to seek after truth will find a vast amount of Biblical truth.

**There Are Four Verses We'll Highlight to Pursuit a Meaning of the Gospel of Life.**

**I. BORN WITH A PURPOSE IN LIFE (John 10:10)**

**II. CRUCIFIED FOR A PURPOSE OF LIFE (John 12:32)**

**III. ASCENDED TO A PURPOSE FOR LIFE (John 14:2)**

**IV. RETURNING AS A PURPOSE WITH LIFE (John 14:3)**

**I. BORN WITH A PURPOSE IN LIFE (John 10:10)**

\*\* "I'm really worried" said a father in the hospital waiting room

"Why?"

"Well, my wife read 'The Tale of Two Cities' and we had twins.

Later she read 'The Three Musketeers' and we had triplets.

Now she's reading 'The Birth of a Nation.'" \*\*

Bob Phillips  
"More Good Clean Jokes"  
p. 41

Many things were known about Jesus prior to His birth. He fulfilled 100's of prophecies just by being born. His name, lineage, place of birth etc. were recorded hundreds of years before His birth. A very important truth to understand is that Jesus came to earth with a purpose. His life exemplified this purpose.

*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (more abundantly - KJV)."*

*John 10:10b*

## **I. BORN WITH A PURPOSE IN LIFE (John 10:10) (Contd.)**

Jesus was actually making a double statement with this verse. He was really saying the same thing in two different ways. The word used for “*life*” is “*zoe*” according to Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words means,

“life in the absolute sense, life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself, and which He gave to the Incarnate Son to have in Himself, John 5:26, and which the Son manifested in the world.”

**Jesus didn’t come just to help us make a living, He came in order that we might have the same life that He and His Father has.** This is almost too incredible to believe. The gospel message contains truths which are often beyond our comprehension. We tend to disregard the truths that don’t make sense to us. We often convince ourselves that we must be misinformed or have misunderstood what we have been told.

**The truth of the matter is that Jesus came to bring us a life that is meaningful and wonderful.** If anyone knows what it takes to have a meaningful life, can’t we agree that God does? After all He created life. There is not an inventor or creator today who doesn’t have a purpose behind his/her invention. He also includes a set of instructions so the one who purchases the item will gain the maximum benefit and be totally satisfied with their acquisition.

When I purchased one of my first my Pentium computers, it came with the instruction manuals built into the memory. If I needed help on any item I could go to the HELP topics and hopefully gain an understanding. If that failed I could ask someone who was more knowledgeable than I was. I could also call a 1-800 number if I was really desperate. Today I just Google it.

I often find that life is complicated just as my PC is. That’s why I continually seek for answers in my book of HELP - the Bible. If that fails (because I can’t understand something), I can ask someone who has studied in the area I’m questioning. If all else fails, I can go to God in prayer. His number is never busy. He has often helped me understand the answer to a puzzling question about life. The hard part is to accept it on His terms and timing.

## **II. CRUCIFIED FOR A PURPOSE OF LIFE (John 12:32)**

One of the areas of life that I found hard to understand was how God could allow His One and only Son to suffer a most agonizing death on an old rugged cross. It initially seemed like a terrible way to treat someone who had never committed a crime. He was unjustly punished.

## II. CRUCIFIED FOR A PURPOSE OF LIFE (John 12:32) (Contd.)

**Son:** “Dad, you wouldn’t spank me for something I didn’t do, would you?”

**Father:** “Why, of course not.”

**Son:** “Good! Because I didn’t do my homework.”

Bob Phillips  
“More Good Clean Jokes”  
p. 43

There are many paradoxes in life. We often find it difficult to understand why certain things must be. We also make a number of mistakes by misinterpreting the Scriptures. Have you ever heard it say that we need to have Jesus lifted up in our midst? One of the Scriptures that are used to support this emphasis is found in John 12. The context is very interesting.

Jesus had spent time at the home of Lazarus whom He had raised from the dead. After the evening meal a woman by the name of Mary anointed the Lord’s feet with an expensive perfume. Judas objected to the “waste” of such an act. Jesus compassionately supported Mary because she had been sensitive to a very important truth.

*“It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.”*

*John 12:7*

She was preparing our Lord for His upcoming crucifixion and death. For the next scene we read about the Triumphant entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. They shouted praises and acknowledged that He was the King of Israel (John 12:13). It was recorded that the whole world was going after Him (John 12:19).

The next thing we read seems almost confusing. A few Greeks wanted to see Jesus (John 12:20). Our Lord knew that He had to keep focussed during the next period of time. He couldn’t be sidetracked by a visitation. His hour had come to glorify the name of God (John 12:23,28). The main purpose of His upcoming crucifixion was to be made plain for everyone to see.

*“But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.  
33. He said this to show the kind of death he was going die.”*

*John 12:32*

## II. CRUCIFIED FOR A PURPOSE OF LIFE (John 12:32) (Contd.)

He was going to be crucified in order that all mankind would have an opportunity to experience what real life is all about. **The death of Jesus on the cross was to bring life to a dying world.** The O.T. Scripture that brings meaning to this portion is recorded in the book of Numbers as the children of Israel travelled through the wilderness.

*“The LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a snake and put it on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.’”*

*Numbers 21:8*

The bitter pain of sin that has gripped our world has been placed upon our Lord and Saviour on the cross. He became sin for us in order that death could be conquered. **He was crucified for the purpose of bringing everlasting life to our world.**

## III. ASCENDED TO A PURPOSE FOR LIFE (John 14:2)

Jesus didn't end the purpose of Life at His crucifixion. He went onto another extravagant step. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead He ascended into heaven. His disciples watched as their Lord returned to heaven. The apostle John wrote about an important reason for His departure.

*“In my Father's house are many rooms (mansions - KJV; literally - dwelling places); if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”*

*John 14:2*

Life becomes very difficult when we don't have a place to live. The recent wars in Syria, have summoned the world to offer food, water and shelter for the millions of refugees who have been victims of this civil unrest. Homes are a luxury that few of them can afford. Temporary shelters become the most reasonable frill of the day.

Can you just imagine the faces of those who go to be with the Lord. They are instantly moved from a temporary shelter to a permanent dwelling. **Can you picture someone being transferred from a tar paper shack to a mansion built by God?** Now that's life. In latter days the noun was used to describe a monastery. Jesus made it clear that He was telling the truth.

### III. ASCENDED TO A PURPOSE FOR LIFE (John 14:2) (Contd.)

There was a program that I liked to watch on T.V. that brought the viewer to different castles in the world. They all had a story to tell. The gardens were carefully located to enhance the landscape. In a number of instances, the owner chose a certain design because of a castle he had seen in another country. Each room was usually named in honour of someone or a specific event or place.

The colour schemes were carefully selected to blend in with the furniture as well as the wall coverings/paintings. Extravagance was written over every luxurious addition to every room. The fireplaces often had elaborate wood carvings for mantles. The chandeliers were frequently imported. The tables, chairs, rugs and bureaus were also exquisite in taste.

Yet all these luxurious mansions will never compare with those that Jesus has prepared for those who love Him. No life on this earth can compare with the richness of heaven. Where have we ever seen our city streets paved with gold? Our foundations are built upon ground, gravel and common stone. In heaven our mansions are built on 12 levels of precious stone. The 200 foot wide wall is made of Jasper. Each of the twelve gates is made of a single pearl. There are no street lamps because the Lamb is the lamp. It's enough to make a Real Estate agent's heart skip a beat or two. In fact, the half has not been told.

“We understand how men are prepared for the place; but not how the place is prepared for men.”

T.D. Bernard  
“The Central Teaching of Jesus Christ”  
p. 134

It's all been built to add to the full meaning of life. Nothing has been forgotten. The Master Architect has given His seal of approval. There is no possibility of rotting, decay or damage. Everything will remain in its original beauty. Everything is an expression of the Life that God gives us.

### IV. RETURNING AS A PURPOSE WITH LIFE (John 14:3)

*“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

*John 14:3*

One of the greatest truths in the gospels is that Jesus is coming again. The Bible tells us that He is coming first to take His Church to be with Him and then He will return to earth with His Church. John tells us that when He comes, we will go to be with Him in heaven.

#### IV. RETURNING AS A PURPOSE WITH LIFE (John 14:3) (Contd.)

Those that are dead in Christ will be reunited with their bodies and be raised with the saints who are still alive to be with the Lord in the air. Our corruptible bodies will take on incorruption. We will become immortal in a twinkling of an eye. Which means we will never die again. Now that's life!

\*\* A parishioner had dozed off to sleep during the morning service. *"Will all who want to go to heaven stand?"* the preacher asked.  
All stood, except the sleeping parishioner.  
After they sat down, the pastor continued: *"Well, will all who want to go to the other place stand?"*  
Someone suddenly dropped a songbook and the sleeping man jumped to his feet and stood sheepishly facing the preacher. He mumbled confusedly, *"Well preacher, I don't know what we're voting for, but it looks like you and I are the only ones standing for it."* \*\*

Bob Phillips  
*"The World's Greatest Collection of Clean Jokes"*  
p. 45

I pray that we are all standing for the gospel of life when Jesus returns. It will be a place of eternal life.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

*John 3:16*

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Date: Dec 11/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: I Live, I Live - G

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**Key Thought:** Jesus Offers Us a Gospel of Life

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**I. BORN WITH A PURPOSE IN LIFE (John 10:10)** - *John 10:10b; John 5:26*

**II. CRUCIFIED FOR A PURPOSE OF LIFE (John 12:32)** - *John 12:7; John 12:13; John 12:19; John 12:20; John 12:23,28; John 12:32; Numbers 21:8*

**III. ASCENDED TO A PURPOSE FOR LIFE (John 14:2)** - *John 14:2*

**IV. RETURNING AS A PURPOSE WITH LIFE (John 14:3)** - *John 14:3; John 3:16*