



“The Life Jesus Brings”

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I've been thinking a lot lately about life and its relationship to something Jesus said in John 12:46-50: His commandment is life eternal. This is where I am on that so far.

Life denotes more than deliverance from misery. It means the restoration of something that had been forfeited, and in Christ, it means something beyond what life was given to Adam. Eternal life was manifested (1 John 1:1-3). This life in Christ is consequent upon forgiveness and is the reward for an obedience, such obedience having been performed by Jesus Himself on our behalf, a perfect, personal, perpetual obedience owed to the Living God. The accepted person has passed from death to life (John 5:24). We are accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:5-7)

Christ describes Himself as the life (John 14:6) and as having life in Himself (John 5:26). He came for the purpose of imparting the Life which He has and which He is (John 12:50) He therefore dispenses the bread of life (John 6:35) and the water of life (John 4:10). Those who abide in Him and follow Him are described as having the light of life (John 8:12).

Jesus is the Bread of Life and we must partake of that Bread, of Him. He is the resurrection and the life for redeemed people (John 11:25). He laid down His life that He might take it again (John 10:17). Jesus gives His flesh for the life of the world (John 6:51).

As the Lamb of God Jesus gives life to the world (John 1:29) as He gives Himself as the sacrifice for sin. He is the Righteousness and Life and so is able to overcome sin and death. He took on Himself the guilt which had been the cause of separation between God and man and He bore the penalty of death. He is the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep (John 10:15). Jesus is both priest and sacrifice. (Craig, Mary. *The Testimony of Jesus: What He Taught on the Atonement*. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., 2013.)

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear My words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejects Me, and perceives not My words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of Myself: but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak, therefore, even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak. John 12:46-50 NKJV

Let's learn from Leon Morris' Commentary. The person despising the Speaker where the saving word is spoken and who persistently rejects the sayings, does not go Scott free. He has a judge. That judge is the saving word itself. The judgment will be that the word of salvation came to that person and that word was rejected. Why? Because Jesus' message is divine in origin and so that Word is the fitting judge of people on the last day. Jesus did not speak from Himself; He is the Messenger. He is in complete agreement with the Word He has always proclaimed. The saving Word did not originate in any human source. Its Source is the Father who gave the

commandment. **The commandment IS life eternal. It doesn't mean that keeping the commandment leads to life eternal. It is life eternal.**

Lesson: The fact of unbelief is not beyond the power and even the purpose of God.
The OT shows that God overrules the designs of evil men to work out His purpose.
The signs and miracles of Jesus are not just displays of power; their meaning abides.

God's purposes are not frustrated by the opposition of evil men. They are accomplished.

Augustine said, "God thus blinds and hardens, simply by letting alone and withdrawing His aid: and God can do this by a judgment that is hidden, although not by one that is unrighteous." (LIII, 6; p. 293) (Adapted from: Morris, Leon. *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel According to John.* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992.)

The Father is bound up in the mission of the Son. The Son is bound up in the purposes of His Father. The Son is sent by the Father to save. He was called to this Mission. He was commissioned. He has been given commandments by the Father. Likewise, the Father has given Him promises. **The commandment IS life eternal.** It is God's great love acting upon us, and acting upon us for our salvation. It is God's holy love moving upon our consciences and wills with life-giving impact.

I have come as a light into the world [*kosmos*] in order that everyone believing on Me might not abide in the darkness. And whenever anyone of Me hears the words, and not keeps them, I do not [*ou*] judge them; indeed, not [*ou*] I came that I might judge the world, but that I might save the world. The one rejecting Me and not receiving My words has one judging him, the word that I spoke, that will judge him in the last day. For I out from Myself not [*ouk*] spoke, but the having sent Me Father Himself. Me—a commandment—gave what I should say and what I should speak. And I know [*oida*] that the commandment of Him life eternal is. What therefore I speak, as has said to Me the Father, so I speak. John 12:47-50.

John 12:44 tells us that Jesus cried out. This was His final public message. We are to pay attention to it. Jesus gives four reasons why. Believe in Him because He is one with the Father, He is the Light, His Words will judge all that reject them, and He speaks the Father's commandment that is eternal life. Jesus' primary purpose in coming this first time was not to judge the world, but to provide salvation through His substitutionary and voluntary sacrifice for sin on the Cross. Now those who hear His sayings and do not keep them show that they do not believe Him and thus do not receive Him but in fact reject Him.

Stephen J. Cole has something to note:

John Calvin is often caricatured as a cold-hearted theologian who denied human choice and believed that God chose the elect and damned the rest, so there's nothing you can do about it. But listen to Calvin's comments on Jesus' appeal to His enemies here (*Calvin's Commentaries* [Baker], pp. 50, 51):

"Why then does Christ not choose to condemn them? It is because He lays aside for a time the office of a *judge*, and offers salvation to all without reserve, and stretches out His arms to embrace all, that all may be the more encouraged to repent.... No man, therefore, is condemned on account of having despised the Gospel, except he who, disdainingly the lovely message of salvation, has chosen of his own accord to draw down destruction on himself." (Calvin)

Calvin paraphrases Jesus saying (in [John 12:48](#); *ibid.* p. 51):

“Burning with ardent desire to promote your salvation, I do indeed abstain from exercising my right to condemn you, and am entirely employed in saving what is lost; but do not think that you have escaped out of the hands of God; for though I should altogether hold My peace, *the word* alone, which you have despised, is sufficient to *judge* you.” (Calvin)

So Calvin here pictures the Savior stretching out His arms to embrace all sinners who will repent and believe in Him. <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-70-final-notice-john-1244-50> Stephen J. Cole, 2014.

John 12:49, 50 is the last appeal. Jesus is the faithful messenger of the Father who sent Him. The words of Jesus are the words of God. They have divine power. They are spirit and they are life. (John 6:63) To whom shall we go? Jesus has the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)

The Father’s commandment is life eternal. It is God’s great love acting upon the believer for salvation. It is the impact of God’s holy love upon us. Therefore Jesus speaks just as the Father has spoken to Him. Jesus and the Father have a permanent relationship. As Barrett has noted, “Jesus is not a figure of independent greatness; He is the Word of God, or He is nothing at all.” (Morris, Leon. page 609, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel According to John.* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992.)

John Piper speaks about the Old Covenant, made obsolete and vanishing away, and the New Covenant in Christ’s blood. “The key differences are that (1) the Messiah, Jesus, has come and shed the blood of the new covenant (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 10:29) so that henceforth He is the Mediator of a new covenant, so that all saving, covenant-keeping faith is conscious faith in Him; (2) the old covenant has therefore become “obsolete” (Hebrews 8:13) and does not govern the new-covenant people of God (2 Corinthians 3:7–18; Romans 7:4, 6; Galatians 3:19); and (3) the promised new heart and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit have been given through faith.” <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/whats-new-about-the-new-covenant>

*For I have given unto them the words which You gave Me;
and they have received, and have known surely that I came out from You,
and they have believed that You did send Me. John 17:8*

The faith of Jesus was and is an obedient faith. Let’s ask for this faith, that we would continuously believe Jesus, believe in Him, and believe what He believes. The New Covenant brings a commandment to love, the Law of Christ. The Law of the Spirit of Life has set us free from the Law of sin and death by the Law of faith. **The Words of Jesus come from the holy heart of a loving God whose commandment is life eternal.** Let’s ask the God of All Grace to grant us understanding and the power to so walk in love, walk in truth, walk in wisdom, walk by the Holy Spirit, and so walk in the Light as Children of the Promise.

Just the Messenger,

Mary Craig

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And this is the record; that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life. These things have I written

unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the Name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:11-13 KJV

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1, 2 ESV



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