The Christian Life

Intro: The most beautiful thing in the world is a Christian life. A Christian is a baptized believer; Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”, who has been raised to walk in newness of life; Rom. 6:3-4 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

I. IT IS A NEW LIFE.
   A. The Christian has been born again.
      1. John 3:3, 5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 5Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
      2. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
   B. Thus we become new creatures with a new life.
      1. 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
      2. Rom. 6:3-4 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
      3. Poem: Anonymous to me.
         I Wish there were some wonderful place
            Call the Land of Beginning Again,
            Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches,
            And all our selfish grief
            Could be dropped like a shabby coat at the door
            And never put on again.
   C. In this new life we have:
      1. A new name
         a. Isa. 62:2 “And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.”
         b. Acts 11:26 “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”
      2. A new attitude
         a. toward neighbors
            (1) Mat. 22:39 “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
            (2) The Good Samaritan; Luke 10:25-37; esp. vs. 36-37 “Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell
among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”

b. Toward enemies
   (1) Mat. 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”
   (2) Rom. 12:20 “Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.”
   (3) 1 Pet. 3:9 “Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.”

c. Toward evil
   (1) Psa. 97:10 “Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.”
   (2) Pro. 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”
   (3) Amos 5:15 “Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”

d. Toward righteousness
   (1) Mic. 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”
   (2) Rom. 12:9 “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

3. A new rule of life
a. Mat. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

b. Eph. 4:24 “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

c. Col. 3:10 “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

4. A new speech
a. Eph. 4:25, 29 “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.... 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

b. Col. 4:6 “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

c. 1 Pet. 3:10 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:”

5. A new way to spend our money.
a. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

b. 2 Cor. 8:1-5 “Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power
they were willing of themselves; 4Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”

II. IT IS A LIFE THAT REVOLVES AROUND CHRIST.

A. In all things there must be a point of reference.
1. Admiral Richard E. Byrd told a story of his first expedition to the South Pole. He left his small hut one day for a brief exploration when a sudden blizzard came up. He became hopelessly lost, with nothing to give him a sense of direction. He always carried a long pole to check for holes in the ice, he stuck it in the snow and tied a scarf to it. He said, “That was my center. If I failed to find my hut, I could return to the center and try again. Three times I tried and failed. If the fourth attempt, I stumbled on my hut.”
2. In math it is the decimal point.
3. In English it is grammar rules.
4. In religion it is Christ.

B. Our standard, point of reference is Christ.
1. Phi. 1:20-21 “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
2. Col. 1:15, 18 “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:...18And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
3. He is our example.
   a. Gal. 4:19 “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,”
   b. 1 Pet. 2:21 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps;”
   c. 1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”
   d. He shows us the nature of God.
      (1) Mat. 11:27 “All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”
      (2) John 14:7-9 “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”
      (3) Heb. 1:3 “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”
      (4) We are to be partakers of that nature; 2 Pet. 1:4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these
ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

4. We must follow His Word.
   a. Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
   b. John 12:48-50 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49For 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. 50And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
   c. Heb. 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

III. THERE IS A GROWTH TO BE MADE.
A. 1 Pet. 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
B. We are to grow in knowledge
   1. 2 Pet. 1:5 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;”
   2. 2 Pet. 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
   3. The only way to grow in knowledge is to study and meditate upon God’s Word.
      a. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
      b. Psa. 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”
      c. This is one of the reasons why Bible classes on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening are important.
C. We are to grow in good works.
   1. The very purpose of our existence is good works.
      a. Eph. 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
      b. Tit. 2:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
   2. We must continue to do good works.
      a. Gal. 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
      b. Tit. 3:1, 8 “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,..."This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”
   3. Only through our doing of good works, can we be saved. 1 Tim. 6:17-19 “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to com-
municate; “Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

D. We are to grow in giving
1. 2 Cor. 8:7 “Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”
2. How much are we to give.
   a. There is no set amount (like the 10% during the Old Testament).
   b. We are to give as God has prospered us. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
   c. With liberality 2 Cor. 9:11 “Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”
3. We are have the right attitude; cheerfully 2 Cor. 9:7-8 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”
4. We are to give on the first day of the week. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
5. Must first give ourselves to God. 2 Cor. 8:2-3, 5 “How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;...And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”

E. We are to grow in soul winning
1. Pro. 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”
2. Jesus gives us the great commission.
   a. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   b. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   c. Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
3. The need of preaching the gospel
   a. The power of the gospel
      (1) Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
(2) 1 Cor. 15:1-2 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

(3) Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

(4) The power to saved must be proclaimed.

b. Rom. 10:14-17 “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

c. 1 Cor. 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

4. 2 Tim. 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

5. John 1:40-42 “One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. 42And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.”

F. We are to grow in diplomacy

1. Mat. 10:16 “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

2. Col. 4:6 “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

a. We must learn what to say and when to say it.

b. When we visit the sick, when we talk to the lost, etc. learn to say those things that should be said, and not say things that should not be said.

G. We are to grow out of childish things.

1. We are to become men.

a. 1 Cor. 13:11 “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

b. 1 Cor. 16:13 “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”

2. We must give time for a person to grow.

a. Jesus knew some people could not take some things at some times.

   (1) John 16:12 “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.”

   (2) At a later time they would be able to bear them.

b. But we cannot always remain a child, feeding on the milk of the word; Heb. 5:12 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”
IV. **There Is A Race To Be Run.**

**A. Christians have entered a race.**

1. 1 Cor. 9:24 “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.”

2. Heb. 12:1-2 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. 2Looking 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

   a. A runner must practice self-control (he must be temperate in all things).

      (1) 1 Cor. 9:25 “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”

      (2) The runner exercises his whole body, and controls his eating, drinking, sleeping, etc.

      (3) The Christian must control his whole life, including his actions and thoughts.

b. A runner must have freedom of action.

   (1) A runner wears light shoes, clothes that will not hinder his running.

   (2) The Christian must lay aside all that would hinder his run.

      (a) Jealousy, envy, hatred, evil speaking, unforgiving attitude, conceit, indifference, etc.

      (b) The Christian must put off all sin he might be engaged in.

**B. We are to persevere to the end.**

1. Phi. 3:13-14 “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but **this** one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

2. Run with patience; Heb. 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”

3. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

4. Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

5. When Oran Rhodes coached junior high track they were entered in a large meet. In a relay the team was in second place when the baton was handed off to the third boy. It was a clean handoff, so Oran turned his back and waited for the boy. He continued to wait. Finally he looked down the track and say the boy sitting down taking his shoes off. He ran to the boy and asked him what the matter was, thinking of an injury. The boy told him “I just got tired, so I quit.” They had a good chance of
winning the race, but this one boy failed to persevere to the end, so they lost.

6. **God’s view of a quitter.**
   a. Luke 9:62 “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
   b. 2 Pet. 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

   21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”

C. **We must have singleness of purpose.**
   1. Mat. 6:22 “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”
   2. Heb. 12:2 “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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
   3. Phi. 3:13-14 “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
   4. Jam. 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

V. **There is a fight to be fought.**
   A. **There are only two sides or realms.**
   1. Col. 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
   2. 2 Cor. 6:14-16 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

   B. **When one becomes a Christian he aligns himself with Christ.**
   1. Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
   2. Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”

   C. **We must engage in the warfare.**
   1. While we are not engaged in a physical warfare, we are engaged in a spiritual warfare against Satan and his forces.
   2. Eph. 6:11-13 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against
spiritual wickedness in high places. 13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

3. 1 Tim. 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

4. 1 Tim. 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

5. 2 Tim. 2:3 “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

D. Far to many today try to be passive and neutral in this war.

VI. IT IS A LIFE OF BURDENS.
A. There is a cross, burdens to bear.
1. Mat. 16:24 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”
2. Gal. 6:5 “For every man shall bear his own burden.”
3. Those burdens might come in many different forms.
a. It might be things that come to man because of the type of world we live in (sickness, loss of life or possessions, etc.)
b. It might be things that come to Christians because of the cause of Christ (persecution and suffering, etc.)

B. By properly using burdens we grow thereby.
1. Jas. 1:2-4, 12 “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.... 12Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”
2. Rom. 5:3-5 “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”
3. 1 Pet. 1:7 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”
4. An ant carrying a big piece of straw, came to a crack in the ground. It stood for a time, ass though pondering the situation, then put the straw across the crack and walked over it. What a lesson for us! The burden became the bridge for progress. Our burdens can sometimes be turned into bridges.

C. Gal. 6:2 “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

VII. IT IS A LIFE IN WHICH WE LEARN HOW TO DIE.
A. Realizing what death is and is not helps us learn how to die.
1. Death is the separation of body and spirit; Jam. 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
2. It is not the cessation of being.
a. Ecc. 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
b. Mat. 22:31-32 “But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, 32I am the God of
Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

**B. Death.**

1. The body goes to the grave and returns to the dust of the ground.
   a. Gen. 3:19 “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”
   b. Eccl. 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

2. The spirit returns to God.

**C. Death for Christians is not feared.**

1. Psa. 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

2. It is simply a departure to be with Christ.
   a. Phi. 1:21, 23 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain....23For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:”

   (1) The word depart (from ἀφαίρεσις analuo) literally means; to loose up, or a loosing up.
   (a) This is the word used for the loosing of the mooring ropes of big ships.
   (b) You do not build a great ship to keep it in the harbor, but to go out.
   (c) The mooring ropes drop away and the great vessel disembarks and goes out to greater and better things.

   (2) This word was also used metaphorically, as a solving of problems.
   (3) Thus, death is a falling away of the mooring ropes, a falling of the fetters, a solving of problems; in order to go out to bigger and better things (being with Christ).

   b. 2 Cor. 5:6, 8 “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:...8We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

3. It is the receiving an eternal house; 2 Cor. 5:1-2 “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.”

4. It is the opportunity to rest from our labors; Rev. 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

**D. A young girl lay fatally ill. She was the idol of her parents; her every whim had been granted. The doctor, after examining her, whispered into the ear of the mother. The message was heard by the sick girl, who said, “Mother, you taught me to dance, to dress well, and to conduct myself well in the world, but you failed to teach me how to die.”**
Conclusion: The Christian life is truly the greatest life which one can live. Not only is it great for this life, it prepares us to die and prepares us for an eternal life with God.