

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

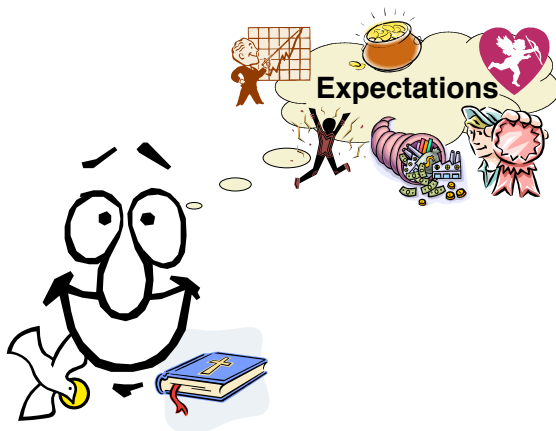
“The Abundant life?”

For more information on this subject go to apptoteach.org theology files #510

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.”

What is the abundant life that Jesus promised?

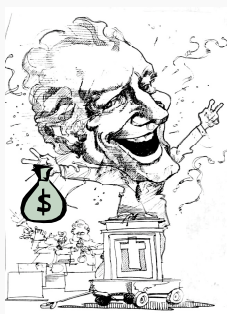


What does the church preach?

- An ethic -
God loves us unconditionally.
- A plan -
God wants to give us the desire of our heart and make us happy.
- A power -
The key to “success” is cooperating with God.



The confusion of the Good News with the “good life” or “American dream.”



“The pursuit of happiness”

Comfort & materialism?
or
Virtue?

“The pursuit of happiness” was originally understood to refer to self-sacrificing virtue not selfish indulgence.

Without this virtue

Capitalism becomes the exploitation of the economically weak by the economically powerful.

Democracy becomes an endless litigation of rights and the manipulation of the naive by the clever and politically powerful.

Pluralism dignifies every kind of moral divergence as a form of human creativity.

1 Corinthians 15

“¹² Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.”

If Christ is not raised - The credibility of Christianity is gone.

1 Corinthians 15

“¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”

If Christ is not raised - this life is all there is.

John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Abundant life is not linked to the circumstances of this world.

1 Corinthians 15

“¹⁵ Moreover we are even found {to be} false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.”

If Christ is not raised - Our personal credibility is gone.

1 Corinthians 15

“¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

If Christ is not raised - We have wasted our lives.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

“⁶ But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we can not take anything out of it either. ⁸ And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”

Abundant life has more to do with attitude than circumstances.

Romans 12

“¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Matthew 6

“²² The lamp of the body is the eye; **if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.** ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will love to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”