



Better Than

Jesus is Better Than Life

**NO
TRESPASSING**

**VIOLATORS
WILL BE SHOT**

**SURVIVORS
WILL BE SHOT
AGAIN**

**PRAYER
IS THE BEST
WAY TO
MEET GOD**

**TRESPASSING
IS THE FASTEST**

WARNING

**PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO TRESPASSING**

SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS, HIPSTERS,
THOSE WHO WEAR SAGGY PANTS OR
SKINNY LEG JEANS, OR ANY OTHER
SHADY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS
WILL BE SHOT ON SIGHT



WARNING

**YOU WOULD BE BETTER
OFF SAND PAPERING A
LIONS BUTT WHILE
WEARING A PAIR OF
PORK CHOP PANTIES
THAN TO BE CAUGHT
ON THIS PROPERTY**

NO TRESPASSING





Better Than

Life

Ways to Give

You can donate in-person or use our online giving system; give a one-time gift or recurring gifts.

When giving online please consider using your checking account instead of your card, which charges the church a percentage fee.

GIVE ONLINE



VCCLife.org/give

Ecclesiastes 5:15-20

¹⁵ We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us. ¹⁶ And this, too, is a very serious problem. People leave this world no better off than when they came. All their hard work is for nothing—like working for the wind. ¹⁷ Throughout their lives, they live under a cloud—frustrated, discouraged, and angry. ¹⁸ Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life. ¹⁹ And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God. ²⁰ God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past. (NLT)

My Summary of Ecclesiastes 5 :15-20

Don't expect anything you do in your life to mean anything. Everyone aspires to great wealth, but when you die all your wealth won't mean a thing. You can't take it with you.

And that is a hard truth about life. You leave the world carrying exactly as much as you brought with you when you were born: NOTHING.

People work their fingers to the bone. They don't get home from work until the rest of the family has already eaten, so they eat alone, and the anger, hurt, and resentment at injustice that they face every day sours their stomachs, so their food just turns into heartburn.

My Summary of Ecclesiastes 5 :15-20

For many people, this is the life they get. They eat and drink and try to find some ways to enjoy their work, and they shouldn't aspire to anything more. That's life, and this is as good as it gets.

For a few people, things are a bit better. God gives them enough money that they don't have to live paycheck-to-paycheck. They can buy what they need, and sometimes even what they want. Some people even have jobs that they enjoy. All this good fortune is God's gift to them, and they should enjoy the good life.

They really don't pay attention to what their lives mean or how it is that they have so much while billions of other people don't have enough. God's gifts make them happy, and if they think deeply about anything, it's mostly about how to protect what they have.

Life is unfair and then you die.

My Life

Some plusses and minuses

Some Things Jesus Taught about Life

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (John 10:10 NLT)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. (Matthew 16:24-25 NLT)

Two Kinds of Life

- John 10:10 uses ζωή (*zoē*) for spiritual, eternal life—rich and satisfying Kingdom life we can live right now.
- Matthew 16:25 uses ψυχή (*psychē*) for earthly existence and identity—the life or self that I have some control over.
- To receive *zoe*—Jesus' promised rich and satisfying life, we must surrender *psychē*—our self-centered life.
- This usually happens a little at a time.

To Receive Zoe, Let Go of *Psyche*

- Sleep
- Time
- Life-dream
- Progress

Why Would We Resist?

- Stubbornness
- Fear
- “Sin is unwillingness to trust that what God wants for me is only my deepest happiness.” *Ignatius Loyola*

Embrace Community, Notice, Understand, Forgive Yourself, Try Again

Psalm 86:11-12

Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth.

Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name.

I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your name forever.

Invitation

- Pay careful attention to hear God's invitations to trade in old life for new life.
- Whenever you hear that invitation, take him up on it.