by Bill Crews

"The good life," "the abundant life," "a full life," "a life of fulfillment," "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," "living it up," "that's really living," -- familiar expressions all.

Because of the brevity and uncertainty of life and the surety and finality of death, many become concerned with the use they should make of life -- and too many decide to use it as they want to or as they think best. All kinds of interests vie for their attention; all sorts of philosophies compete for their allegiance. The spectrum runs all the way from complete abandonment to physical and sensual thrills to the other extreme of rigid self-discipline and self-denial.

But, friend, if you would learn about life -- in particular about what you should do with yours -- learn from Him who is its source, God, and from Him who has shown us how to use it, His Son, Jesus Christ. If you do not believe in the existence of God, the deity of Jesus, the inspiration of the Bible and the fact of life beyond this life, you are not at all prepared to properly use this life.

God Is The Source Of Life

"The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." "For in him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:24-25, 28). "And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7). Elihu rightly said, "The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty giveth my life" (Job 33:4). In Jesus Christ, while he lived among men in the long ago, we have God incarnate, God with us. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14). "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel; which is, being interpreted, God with us" (Matt. 1:23).

God Is The Author Of The Bible

He who is **the source of life** is also **the author of the Bible**. The Bible is the revelation of God's will to man. Learn how to use life from God's book. The Bible contains the divine account of the life that the Christ lived among men. Be followers of Christ, imitators of His example. "For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). Wrote Paul, "Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:11).

"This is the end of the matter, all hath been heard; fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man (or man's all)" (Eccl, 12:13). Jesus summed up man's duties like this: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." And, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 22:37, 39).

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