



SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Scripture: John 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:10

TITLE: How to Experience a Fulfilling Life

Misinformed. Many people today are misinformed about the life of a Christian. What do I mean by that? Many people today don't want to become a Christian because they think it is boring. They think it will rob them of the fun in their life. Now, to be fair, there are many things we should give up when we come to Christ. But it's what I call "trading up". When we come to Jesus, we are trading up an old, destructive life for a new life of flourishing.

What do I mean? Well, listen to the words of Jesus in John 10:9-10:

"Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

This week, we've been talking about Salvation. God offers Salvation exclusively through Jesus Christ to all who believe. That's why Jesus refers to himself as "the gate." He is the way to God. There is no other way.

Satan is the thief. He's a liar and a deceiver. He wants people to believe that life apart from Christ is the best life. Sex, drugs, and rock and roll is the best life offers, but Jesus wants to rob us of these pleasures and joy. But that's a lie. Jesus said, *"My purpose is to provide people a rich and satisfying life."* Other translations say, "Life to the fullest."

C.S. Lewis accurately assessed our problem. Lewis said, "It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." (— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*)

You see, it's a lie to think that pornography is better than exclusive intimacy with a spouse. It's a lie to think that getting drunk is better than being a sober servant. It's a lie to think that spending your resources exclusively on yourself is better than blessing others you encounter.

Paul reminds us we were saved on purpose and for a purpose in Ephesians 2:10:

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

God saved us, not just *from* Hell. He saved us *for* Heaven with the promise of a fulfilling life each and every day. A life free from regret and full of eternal purpose is much better than any life the world offers us today.

So here's my challenge for you today: Live the fulfilling life God has planned for you. What is one thing you can do today to live that fulfilling life? Is it taking an extra 10 minutes at lunch to know and pray with your server? Is it going next door to a neighbor and spending 30 minutes checking in on them? Is it not just giving the homeless person a meal, but eating with them and sharing the life Jesus offers?

Whatever you do, do it with Gospel intentionality: a readiness and desire to sprinkle the seeds of the Gospel.

Whatever it is you do, share with us below. We want to celebrate and pray for God-honoring results. When we live a fulfilling life, we all will win the day!