

Empire Church of the Brethren

## Sunday Service Sermons

**16 April 2023**

Life In The Son

After this year when you hear the word son you most likely think of sun since we did not have much sun for a few months.

However nice life in the sun; is, life in the Son is much better.

For the Son is life from the beginning to forever.

Do you live in the Son?

To live in the Son is to receive life from the Son and live life guided by the Son.

The guiding part comes to us from the Holy Spirit which is the mind of God and power of Christ.

In *1 John 5:11-12* we read: "This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Clear and to the point.

Life in and though God is so direct, simple, and clear.

We like to make it complicated in order to get around it.

But the truth is clear.

God created life and God gives life to those who live in and through Him.

This truth is found in the words of a song written by Bill Gather that we all enjoy singing.

It captures the hope of being a follower of "The Way."

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; Because He lives, all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.

And each one of us has this life within us who call Jesus Lord.

We just had the Spiritual High Sunday of the year.

We might wonder where we go from here, now that the most important Sunday of the year is past.

Now that Christ is alive forever, we can be sure of several truths that change our lives into a daily experience worth living.

Truths that give us purpose and meaning in light of the gospel truth of last Sunday.

The key word in John's first letter is know, the word is found thirty times in 105 verses.

John was certain of the gifts that came with Christ.

One of these gifts is the life found in the Son; "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

God gives life.

Life in the Son.

It is not God's will for anyone to perish; he wants each person to live.

But we can find fulfillment only in Jesus, who said, "I am the resurrection and the life.

The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." *John 11*

Jesus' resurrection assures us of life.

No "resurrection spirit" can give us victory over death.

Paul asked, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." *1 Cor. 15*

Lofton Hudson wrote that "death, for many, if not most modern Western men and women, is a four-lettered word, obscene, vulgar, nasty, not to be used on stage or in polite society."

Jesus' death and resurrection have changed the face of death.

Death need not be the grim reaper but the doorway to eternal life, life in the Son.

New quality of life.

The life God gives in Jesus, is more than living forever.

He impacts a new quality of life.

The words eternal life refer to the very life of God at work within us now.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

An extraordinary quality of life is available in Jesus Christ.

But those without Jesus are "dead in their trespasses and sins."

Jesus promised, "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

Life in the Son is more than just living, it is life with quality.

Do you have life?

Received through faith.

The gift of life comes to those who have the Son, and the Son must be received through faith.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." *1 John 5*

Faith was the essential element to which Jesus responded.

Four men lowered a paralytic through the roof into the house where Jesus was teaching. "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"

Faith is a common ingredient of daily existence, yet many claim they cannot have faith in Christ.

Aldous Huxley once wrote, "Theology claims the just shall live by faith. Science says the just shall live by verification."

Yet the scientist believes in a logical universe.

He believes in principles used to verify presumptions.

What is a theory?

It is something believed to be true but unproven.

We believe in education, democracy, and ourselves.

Belief is common; why not believe the best and have life in the Son?

Lost because of unbelief.

If this uncommon life comes to those who believe in Jesus, those who refuse to believe are lost, "Whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Can a good person really be lost? Yes.

Faith in Christ is the crucial test, "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only son." *John 3:18*

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumbering on the brink of woe, death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go? Tell them all about the Saviour, Tell them that He will be found.

George Atkins

Realizing that life is only in the Son should motivate us to "rescue the perishing, care for the dying, snatch them in pity from sin and the grave."

Life for Keeps.

Trust God's testimony.

Maybe as a child you responded to a person's gift by saying, "Is this mine, for keeps?"

Life in the Son is a permanent possession.

God is the basis of this security.

A personal testimony about new life is great, but "God's testimony is greater, Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony."

To doubt the certainty of life on the basis of the requirements set forth by God is to make God a liar.

If you have done what God said to do, then trust his word and rejoice!

God keeps us.

Paul's confident word to Timothy included a testimony of God's keeping power.

“ I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

The word keep means “guard” and evokes the image of a garrison of heavenly troops protecting the individual.

Christ is able to keep us and present us one day at the throne of glory.

Because he was able to defeat death, he is adequate for everything in this life and the next.

We all can share the sense of mystery about which Daniel Whittle wrote when he penned:

I know not why God’s wondrous grace to me He hath made known, nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own.

But we do know that we believe in Christ.

We do believe that life in the Son is real.

And that life is worth the living just because He lives and He lives in and through us who believe.

How wonderful is that?

And this can keep the truth of last Sunday alive in each of us throughout the year.