

**DAILY  
STUDY  
GUIDE**

*The Good  
Life*

**Part 1: April - May 2021**

April 11 - **ASK IT!**

April 18 - New Life

April 25 - Set Free

May 2 - Life or Death

May 9 - Eternal

**Stay tuned for part 2 with our  
epic series finale!**

**Crossroads Community Church**

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# Introduction

“Living the good life”... If you say that someone is living the good life, you mean that they are living in comfort and luxury with few problems or worries. ([www.collinsdictionary.com](http://www.collinsdictionary.com)).

Some may be fortunate enough to have this kind of lifestyle but for most people life can be rough and filled with worry and fear, bills, health issues and relationship problems... even as Christians!

The Good Life God offers is not dependent on smooth sailing or worry free living, but having the ability to live in peace and joy in the face of any trial or persecution that may come. It is dependent on God’s goodness not the world and the life is in Christ and is eternal.

Join us starting April 10 & 11 for this 2 part series where we will continue exploring Paul’s letter to the Romans and discover how you can have The Good Life too.

This series will begin with an “Ask It” message where you will have the opportunity to submit any questions you have about God, Jesus, the Bible, life, or current circumstances and they will be answered at both services. Questions can be submitted to [kim@ccc-rc.org](mailto:kim@ccc-rc.org), [www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org](http://www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org), the app or text in to 760-301-4840

We currently offer family seating in the great room upstairs so families with active children can sit together and participate in service. We also live stream both services through Facebook or YouTube on our church app or website at [www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org](http://www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org).

Past messages are also available on our church app, website, or you can pick up a DVD in the Resource Box in front of the office or stop by the office Wed – Fri 10am – 4pm. Promiseland Homefront magazines and craft projects are available in the Resource Box and weekend lessons are available on line through Facebook and the website to keep our kids connected.

We will continue to practice COVID safe guidelines throughout the church through the requirement of wearing masks, taking temperatures when coming into the building and sanitizing between services. Masks and hand sanitizer are available if needed.

If you have any questions please contact us at 760-384-3333 or text us at 760-301-4840



# ASK IT

Monday, April 5

*Memory Verse:* Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Mark 8:27-38

*Going Deeper:* What questions did Jesus ask His disciples in verses 27 & 29? What did they answer? What did Jesus then begin to teach them? How did they respond? What questions does Jesus then ask in verses 36 & 37?

*Question for Journaling:* "Who do you say that I am?" Just one week after celebrating Easter, all people will find themselves still needing to answer that question... who do YOU say Jesus is? Where did you learn this? Does your answer come from personal experience or what you've read and been taught – or both? Peter's answer wasn't simply stating he knew Jesus' title, but the recognition and admission that Jesus was the "Christos/Messiah" or anointed One [of God]. What does this mean to you? Looking to the next questions Jesus asked, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his soul". How does this question challenge you? For most, the accumulation of wealth, accomplishing work or educational goals, getting married and having kids takes priority over making sure our eternal future is secure in Christ. Jesus often becomes an accessory to life rather than the center focus of life from which everything else flows. How does this challenge or encourage you?

*Today's Challenge:* List what things you may have prioritized over your relationship with Christ. Do you fear not accomplishing all of your goals if you make Christ your priority? Why/why not? Next, consider what you could accomplish if/when you put God first (See Matthew 6:33-34). Bring any questions you may have regarding this subject to the "Ask It" message on April 10 & 11 or email [kim@ccc-rc.org](mailto:kim@ccc-rc.org), text (760) 301-4840 or submit it to the church app.



# ASK IT

Tuesday, April 6

*Memory Verse:* Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Acts 26:2-23

*Going Deeper:* What powerful question does Paul ask in verse 8? What question is asked of Paul in verse 14?

*Question for Journaling:* As children, we often fight and resist our parents as they train and instruct us so it is no surprise we can do the same thing to God. Paul has an incredible testimony and part of it is that while he thought he was serving God, he was actually working against Him. Have you ever had that experience? Part of the maturing process comes with making mistakes, discipline, and often pain. Have you ever resisted when God was disciplining you? Was it painful? What were the final results? Have you been able to use it as part of your testimony?

*Today's Challenge:* Take time to evaluate if there are any painful areas in your life that are due to resisting God's discipline and teaching. As you list them, also list what you need to do to listen and obey Him. Bring any questions you may have regarding this subject to the "Ask It" message on April 10 & 11 or email [kim@ccc-rc.org](mailto:kim@ccc-rc.org), text (760) 301-4840 or submit it to the church app.



# ASK IT

Wednesday, April 7

*Memory Verse:* Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Mark 4:35-41

*Going Deeper:* In this passage, what was going on? What did the disciples ask Jesus? What did Jesus ask them?

*Question for Journaling:* There's a good chance every one of us has asked God, "Don't you care about me?" Have you struggled through painful circumstances only to finally ask God why He didn't care or wasn't doing anything about it? Did you get an answer? The answer is in Jesus' question to the disciples. It is a faith issue on our part not a caring issue on God's part. The faith we have should be firmly placed in the sovereignty of God's plan and that He will allow and ordain any trial in our lives for the purpose of shaping us into the image of His Son (See Romans 8:28-29 & James 1:2-4) How do these verses bring you hope?

*Today's Challenge:* List the areas in your life where you feel God isn't answering prayer or helping in a situation. Next take some time to really evaluate if you are simply missing God's work in your life or are expecting a different result. Ask these questions: Is there a sin in my life that is preventing change/healing? Am I demanding God meet my needs or am I willing to submit to His will? What is God's purpose in this situation? Journal your answers. Bring any questions you may have regarding this subject to the "Ask It" message on April 10 & 11 or email [kim@ccc-rc.org](mailto:kim@ccc-rc.org), text (760) 301-4840 or submit it to the church app.



# ASK IT

Thursday, April 8

*Memory Verse:* Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Colossians 2:6-23

*Going Deeper:* In verse 8, what does Paul warn believers against? What does he also tell them to not let people judge them for? What question does he ask in verse 20?

*Question for Journaling:* In the Christian church and its varying denominations, there can be rules, traditions, or teachings that become a focal point for faith that can be unbiblical, for example: what day to honor the Sabbath (day of rest), the celebration of Christmas or other holidays, what type of food to eat, people must be baptized to be saved... Have you ever wondered about these? Do you know anyone who feels strongly one way or the other? Sadly, these subjects can become so contentious they will divide churches and people. What does He want believers to focus on instead in verses 13-14? Using this passage as an example, how can you protect yourself from being deceived by false doctrine and teachings?

*Today's Challenge:* List some of the different teachings you have heard in and out of the church. Next spend time looking for scripture that either supports or denies the truth of the teachings and write them down. Keep it available for the next conversation you may have with someone regarding this subject. Bring any questions you may have regarding this subject to the "Ask It" message on April 10 & 11 or email [kim@ccc-rc.org](mailto:kim@ccc-rc.org), text (760) 301-4840 or submit it to the church app.



# ASK IT

Friday, April 9

*Memory Verse:* Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Matthew 4:1-11

*Going Deeper:* What are the three areas Satan tempts Jesus (Also see 1 John 2:16)? What is Jesus' response?

*Question for Journaling:* Sometimes we question God because Satan said...“IF”. Doubt and wavering faith doesn't always come from a question but rather a deceitful and carefully placed “IF” statement by the father of lies! The fall of man in Genesis (chapter 3) came from a question that caused Adam and Eve to question God's command “do not eat”. In today's reading, how did Satan distort scripture? It should be a terrifying thought that Satan knows God's word better than most Christians! Do you know your Bible well enough to detect Satan's lies and twisting of scripture? All he needs to do is make it sound right! What or how has “IF” or doubt crept into your faith? How did you handle it? What did God teach you about Himself through it? If you have questions or doubts about your faith or Christianity, we would love to help! Give us a call at 760-384-3333 to schedule an appointment so we can talk.

*Today's Challenge:* Write your plan to study the Bible. If you have children, include them in the plan and learn together. If you are just starting, don't get discouraged – it takes time to mature and learn! God is patient and will give you everything you need. Bring any questions you may have regarding this subject to the “Ask It” message on April 10 & 11 or email [kim@ccc-rc.org](mailto:kim@ccc-rc.org), text (760) 301-4840 or submit it to the church app.



# ASK IT

Saturday, April 10

*Memory Verse:* Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Luke 21:5-36

*Going Deeper:* What question do the disciples ask Jesus? What is His encouragement and warning in verses 28 & 34-36?

*Question for Journaling:* Have you ever wondered why everything gets so crazy in the end times? Maybe the answer can be found in another question... in today's world, what will it take to get people's attention? Society is so depraved and desensitized that they will need something HUGE to capture their attention. Do you ever worry about living through this time? Why? Do you believe God will equip His people with power and courage? The good news is, we KNOW what is to come and can prepare for it so we won't be surprised and will also be able to point people to the Bible and God.

*Today's Challenge:* Write down what fears you have about the end times. Ask God to help you understand the subject better and find scripture that brings peace of mind. Bring any questions you may have regarding this subject to the "Ask It" message on April 10 & 11 or email [kim@ccc-rc.org](mailto:kim@ccc-rc.org), text (760) 301-4840 or submit it to the church app.



# The Good Life

## Episode 1: New Life

Monday, April 12

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 5:18-21 & Romans 6:1-4

**Going Deeper:** In Romans 5 what act brought condemnation to all people? In verse 20 what does the law do? In verse 21 what does grace do? In Romans 6:1 what pivotal question does the Apostle Paul ask? According to the remaining verses, how/what are Christ followers baptized into and what is the result?

**Question for Journaling:** The defining factor for those who are truly committed to following Jesus is a truly changed life. Having made that decision a person can't continue to live the way they used to. This is Paul's point – actually a few points... first, the law – or The Commandments – were given to reveal sin not to save us from it. Second, when Christ was crucified He did what the law couldn't do – offer grace, forgiveness, and eternal life. It seems that some of Paul's readers were using God's grace as a reason to keep on sinning or at the very least misunderstanding what new life in Christ means. When, if you have, become a Christian how hard or easy is/was it to stop living in the old ways? What is your understanding of "new life in Christ"? Paul uses the picture of baptism to help us understand the concept of new life. When a person becomes a Christian they usually get baptized in water as a representation of a decision to follow Christ. This is a symbol of washing away the old (immersion in water) and rising up in newness. So as Paul describes baptism into Christ's death, picture in your mind your old self dying, being buried, and resurrected alive the way Christ was. How does this affect your perspective? This isn't a symbol though – this is a literal spiritual death (of the old self) and resurrection (the new self) of your soul and spirit! That said, how grievous is it to take advantage of God's grace and make it an excuse to keep on sinning?





# The Good Life

## Episode 1: New Life

Tuesday, April 13

*Memory Verse:* Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

*Going Deeper:* How does the Apostle Paul describe our body on this earth in verses 1-4? In verses 6-10 how does he say believers live? What controls them in verse 14? In verse 17, what is true of the person who is in Christ? What did Jesus do for us in verses 18 and 19 and what ministry are believers given?

*Question for Journaling:* Have you ever felt uncomfortable in this world – like you don't belong? This can be a tricky question. For those who struggle with addiction, depression, and other problems this may be a feeling experienced frequently. However, for the believer the feeling that we are "strangers" in a foreign land is due to the fact that earth is not our permanent home and we long to be home with God. The Good News for both situations is that with Christ, the addicted, depressed, and hopeless can become new! Only Christ can bring hope and healing where everything else has failed. And as a new creation we are given the awesome task of hanging out on Earth to tell others about this hope (ministry of reconciliation). What has Christ saved you from? Does the love of/for Christ control you? Why/why not? While we are "in this tent" we should be making the most of our time... rather than complain about bad situations and people how can you use Paul's example in these verses?

*Today's Challenge:* If you are a "new creation" list the ways in which you can help others know Christ. Also, list the ways in which you are making the most of your time for Christ. If you are not currently doing this, list what you can do to begin.





# The Good Life

## Episode 1: New Life

Wednesday, April 14

*Memory Verse:* Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Galatians 2:15-21

*Going Deeper:* According to today's verses by whose faithfulness are we justified? In verse 20, how does the Apostle Paul describe his life? Who lives through Him?

*Word Study:* In

*Question for Journaling:* In Day 1 we learned about what it means to be baptized into Christ. Today in Paul's letter to the Galatian church he refers again to death in Christ – this time specifically being crucified with Christ. What does this mean? What Paul is teaching us is identifying with Christ's death and resurrection. Having just celebrated Easter, the gruesome picture of crucifixion should be fresh in our minds so the lesson is that when we choose to follow Christ, we must also choose death of our old life. Christ cannot live through us until we die to self...we both can't fit and He won't force His way in. When we choose to give up our pride and self-centeredness and submit ourselves to Him, the same power that raised Him from the grave can reside in us! How does that challenge or encourage you? Does the life you now live identify with Christ?

*Today's Challenge:* Take some time to list the things in your life that need to be crucified. Next make a list of the characteristics and qualities of Jesus. How can these characteristics and qualities be shown through your life so the life you now live is Christ in you?





# The Good Life

## Episode 1: New Life

Thursday, April 15

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Ephesians 4:17-32

**Going Deeper:** How do verses 17-19 reemphasize Romans 1:21-27? In verses 20-24 what are we to put off and put on? What are we to do with our minds (also see Romans 12:2)? In the remainder of the verses what are the qualities of a new life in Christ?

**Question for Journaling:** The presentation of the Gospel and salvation through Christ is often taught that it is a gift, a free gift – and it is. We can do nothing to earn it and we certainly don't deserve God's mercy and grace. But like any gift, it must be opened and applied. We would think it silly to receive a birthday or Christmas gift beautifully wrapped and walk around with it while never opening it to see what's inside. Sadly, this is what many people do with Christianity. They take the gift, walk around with it, talk about it but never open it. The result is a mediocre faith never fully realized. What do you think about this? In this passage of Ephesians, Paul gives a directive or command to the new believers... to put off the old and put on the new. This is the process of opening the gift Christ gave us and using it. It is the responsibility of each believer to deliberately and diligently work at stopping the old behaviors/attitudes and practice new godly ones. How does this impact you? If you have been struggling to change areas of your life, how does Paul's instruction help you? How can you encourage others with this information?

**Today's Challenge:** Take time to evaluate if you have completely "put off" your old self and "put on" your new self that is created in Christ. Go through each example Paul gives in verses 25-32 and write a plan to practice each one in all areas of your life and add any areas that are not directly stated in these verses.





# The Good Life

## Episode 1: New Life

Friday, April 16

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Colossians 3:1-25

**Going Deeper:** What are Christians to "seek" or focus on in verses 1-2? In the remainder of the chapter list the actions/thoughts that are to be stopped and actions/thought that are to be practiced.

**Question for Journaling:** The mental and emotional aspects of life can challenge us as we learn what it means to be a Christian. Many struggle with trying to understand why they still wrestle with doubt, fear, worry, anger, depression, jealousy, and other issues even after choosing to follow Christ. The truth is that although we are a new creation, as we learned the other day, we are still on this earth and it is plagued by the effects of sin. Life still comes at us and even though our hope is in Christ, we will still find ourselves dealing with emotional issues. The key to learning how to understand and overcome them is found in verses 1, 17, and 23 of today's reading. Look at them again and write them down. Our new life depends just as much on deliberately choosing what we focus on as it does making life changes. When you choose to dwell on God's word, love others, and let the peace of Christ rule in your heart you will learn to overcome the emotions that can challenge you. How does this encourage you?

**Today's Challenge:** We are taught to seek help from friends, family, or "experts" when we are struggling in life. However, no matter how much they love you or have experience and education, if advice or instruction isn't from the Bible it could lead you in the wrong direction. Read Psalm 1:1-3 and Colossians 3:16 – who and what are Christians to rely on for instruction and advice? What is the result and how does it apply with today's reading? If you spend time obeying the



# The Good Life

## Episode 1: New Life

Saturday, April 17

Memory Verse: Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Pray: As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

Today's Reading: 1 Peter 1:1-25

Going Deeper: What incredible news does Peter say of believers in verse 3? In verse 4 what do they get and how is it described? What is God doing for them in verse 5? In verses 6-7 what can they rejoice in and in spite of what? How are believers to conduct themselves and why according to verses 13-17? What is the Good News found in verses 18-25?

**Key Word: Dispersion (Diaspora, living abroad)** - "to those living as resident foreigners," "to the exiles." This term is used metaphorically of Christians who live in this world as foreigners, since their homeland is heaven.

Diaspora refers to Jews not living in Palestine but "dispersed" or scattered among the Gentiles. But here it is probably metaphorical, used of Gentile Christians spread out as God's people in the midst of a godless world.

Question for Journaling: In this passage we again see the reference to Christians being "foreigners" – not in their particular region (although this could be true) but in the world. All the more reason why Peter is reminding them of the LIVING hope they have in Christ. What do you think Peter means by "living" hope? If as a Christian, your hope is in Christ and He is resurrected then what does that mean? The disciples were scattered and persecuted for their faith so it became important for them to be reminded of the great gift of grace they had and encourage one another so they didn't lose hope in the midst of trials and persecution. This is why it is so important for believers to gather together (see Hebrews 10:23-25). Are there times in your life you feel hopeless or struggle with maintaining hope? How does your attitude and behavior change? How does today's passage encourage you?





*The Good Life*  
*Episode 2: Set Free*

Monday, April 19

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 6:1-11

**Going Deeper:** According to verses 6-7 what died and what was the purpose? How are believers to consider themselves in verse 11?

**Word Study:** Dead (Greek: nekros) one that has breathed his last, lifeless, deceased, destitute of force or power, inactive, inoperative.

**Question for Journaling:** What does it mean to be "dead to sin"? The word the Apostle Paul uses in today's reading is literal...dead = no life! Nekros is the root of the word necrosis which is a medical term used to indicate dead tissue – flesh that dies due to lack of blood flow. How does this picture help bring understanding to the concept of being dead to sin? Paul uses this to help believers understand their new nature in Christ – a dead body cannot respond to any stimuli and so for the Christian if we are to consider ourselves dead to sin, how can/should we respond to the opportunity to sin – or "cut off" the flow? How does this challenge or encourage you? The truth here is that for true Christ followers, we don't have to sin! We will be tempted, we will still make mistakes, but we DO have the same power that raised Christ from the grave in us so we can resist sin. Thankfully, since God knows we still stumble He continues to forgive when we repent (See 1 John 1:9)

**Today's Challenge:** If you are Christian, what sins has Jesus set you free from? Are there areas you still struggle with? What is your attitude toward them? Taking today's reading into consideration, how should/has your view changed regarding the areas you struggle with? Finally, list some ways you can practice being dead to sin.



# The Good Life

## Episode 2: Set Free

Tuesday, April 20

*Memory Verse:* Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Galatians 3:1-29

*Going Deeper:* What is the concern and question being asked in verses 1-5? What is the result for the person trying to earn their salvation by works (the law)? What did Christ do in verse 13? What was the purpose of the Law in verses 19-24? According to the remaining verses, what does faith do? Describe what verse 28 says of people who are free in Christ.

*Question for Journaling:* The people of Israel were well acquainted with slavery. They had been slaves in Egypt, Babylon (to name a few) and here in the New Testament letters we see they were under Roman rule. Then and now freedom is the one thing people desire most – freedom from literal slavery, addiction, oppression, the control of others, destructive sin habits, racism, stereotyping, etc. However, what we NEED most is spiritual freedom which transcends earthly situations. If Jesus's death and resurrection leveled the playing field for all people regardless of race, gender, and position, why do you think oppression and injustices still exist – even in the church? Some of the answer is found in the first 5 verses of today's reading... based on these verses what are the issues people face even after hearing/receiving the Good News of Christ? When we try to change ourselves, we neglect the power of God's Holy Spirit as the only true way we can really change and mature. This maturity brings Christ followers to the reality that even if earthly circumstances such as slavery and prejudice are still present in their lives they are still FREE in Christ – how does this encourage or challenge you? How does this apply to the other trials of life you may experience?

*Today's Challenge:* Taking today's reading into account, look back on the areas you may have listed in yesterday's study that you still struggle with. Write if the difficulty is due to you trying to





# The Good Life

## Episode 2: Set Free

Wednesday, April 21

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** John 8:31-47

**Going Deeper:** What does Jesus teach about truth in verses 31-32? What truth does He teach about sin in verse 34? In verses 36-44 what debate do the Jews have with Jesus about who their father is? What truth does Jesus tell them in verses 39 & 44? What does Jesus say about the person who belongs to God in verse 47?

**Question for Journaling:** The incredible fact of Christianity is that as we practice faithful and loving obedience to God, we grow in knowledge, and as we grow in knowledge, we grow in freedom from sin. This is the truth Jesus was pointing out to the people. The key here is the word practice – whether we realize it or not we practice sinning either by deliberately allowing ourselves to indulge in sinful lifestyle or simply because we've never been taught what it is and how to avoid it. The Christian life of putting on the "new nature" requires practice as well but it starts with a new understanding and biblical worldview (See Romans 12:2). As Jesus points out we are a slave to whatever we practice! What do you practice (or are a slave to) in your life – good, bad or neutral? There are many good things in life that we practice that are not sinful...exercise, healthy eating, learning a new skill, volunteering – however, at what point can it become a sin? The Jews Jesus was speaking to were practicing the Law - which was good – until the Law became more important than the willingness to hear, learn, and practice the truth that Jesus was the Messiah prophesied in their Law. Many people who say they are Christian continue to live enslaved to sin even when they are consistent in prayer, church attendance, and serving – why do you think that happens? Have you experienced this? How does today's reading encourage you?



# The Good Life

## Episode 2: Set Free

Thursday, April 22

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Galatians 5:1-26

**Going Deeper:** What did Jesus do for people in verse 1? What were they not to be subject to? According to verses 2-12 what were the Jews struggling with? What is Christian freedom to be used for in verse 13? In verses 14-21 what is the challenge and warning? In the remainder of the chapter, how is true freedom in Christ demonstrated? Is it dependent on circumstances?

**Question for Journaling:** In today's reading the Apostle Paul is encouraging the believers to not slide back into old Jewish tradition of circumcision. In fact he points out that to do so is to reject Christ's work on the cross as ineffective – very dangerous! However, we all know it can be confusing as new believers who are trying to figure out what to do when it comes to daily living and as we read today there are people teaching different rules that can add to the confusion. Have you experienced this? In what way? In verse 9 Paul reminds the people of something Jesus said... the yeast of the Pharisees (see Mark 8:15) and the caution that one tiny incorrect or misdirected teaching can affect everything. How does this challenge or encourage you in your faith and what you read and hear? True freedom in Christ changes our view from saving self to saving others. To obey the Law was a self - focused act whereas Christ's sacrifice frees His people to focus on loving and serving others (ref vs. 24, see Matthew 22:36-40). This focus also frees Christians to practice the fruit of the Spirit (vs. 22-23) in spite of AND during trials and persecution! How hard is it to practice these qualities during hard times? Does it mean you can't or that you would rather respond in the flesh?

**Today's Challenge:** To continue practicing the daily challenges, list times it became difficult to practice what you've been learning. Next evaluate if you allowed the circumstance to affect your





*The Good Life*  
*Episode 2: Set Free*

Friday, April 23

*Memory Verse:* Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Luke 8:26-39, Mark 5:1-20

*Going Deeper:* In today's passage, what was the condition of the man Jesus encountered? What did he ask Jesus not to do and why? What did Jesus do? What was the condition of the man after that? How did the townspeople respond? In the last few verses what did the man want to do and what did Jesus instruct him to do instead? What did he do?

*Question for Journaling:* We don't know how this man became possessed but it was obvious and terrifying. The name Legion means "thousands" and although it may not mean he was actually possessed by thousands of demons it does indicate there were multiple demons controlling him – he was enslaved. What is interesting in this passage is that the man did NOT ask to be healed...in fact the demons asked not to be cast out! What does this encounter tell you about Jesus' heart for this man and His authority over all spirits? Why do you think the people of the town responded the way they did? It is unfortunate that the miracle of freedom Jesus gave this man was rejected by the people. Sometimes people become so used to a sinful situation that it is "normal" – to not have it causes fear of uncertainty. Have you ever experienced that in your own life or witnessed it in others? People can become so attached to sin or identified by their sin they refuse to be set free or try to bargain with God which sins they want freedom from and which ones they want to keep. On the other hand when set free by the Son of God, some people want to "stay" with Him – this might mean the desire to remain close to the people or place where salvation took place out of feelings of safety or comfort. But what does Jesus ask instead? How does today's study challenge or encourage you?

*Today's Challenge:* throughout this week you have been working on the sins in your life – taking off the old and putting on the new. Because today's reading is an extreme example of healing, it may be tempting to think this doesn't apply to your situation. If you are Christian or have been





# The Good Life

## Episode 2: Set Free

Saturday, April 24

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** John 8:1-11

**Going Deeper:** What is the sin the woman was caught doing? What did the religious leaders do? How did Jesus respond? What did He tell the woman in verse 11?

**Question for Journaling:** The act of adultery in the Jewish culture meant a literal death sentence. This woman knew she was going to die...can you imagine what was going through her mind when Jesus not only confronted the Pharisees but forgave her? This was truly miraculous! Is there a sin in your life you feel is unforgivable? Why/why not? People have a tendency to delegate severity of sins but nowhere in scripture do we find such a list...sin is sin and an offense to God, whether it is a small lie or adultery, and deserving of death (Romans 6:23). Are you tempted to place sins on a level of severity? Why/why not? When we are truly set free from sin and are faithfully following Christ we do become increasingly sensitive to sin and even the "smallest" of sins become obvious. How does this challenge you? As we wrap up this week's study, we end our time with a command from the Messiah..."go and sin no more". Do you think He would have told this woman to do that if He hadn't given her the ability? When Christ forgave you He spoke this command to you as well – and continues to do so...how will/do you respond?

**Today's Challenge:** The reality is that even when we try not to, we still stumble and sin. The good news comes from 1 John 1:9 – write this verse down. Paul also gives instruction in how to avoid sin in Romans 6:12-14 – write what it means to not present yourself as an instrument of sin. Knowing the power of Christ in you, if/as a believer, how does this week's study give you hope and change your perspective?



# The Good Life

## Episode 3: Life or Death

Monday, April 26

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:13

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 6:11-19

**Going Deeper:** How does the Apostle Paul say we should present our members, or bodies, in verses 11-13? According to verse 14, what no longer has mastery or dominion over us? In verse 16 what two options are there that we volunteer ourselves to? In the remaining verses, once a person is freed from sin what are they now a slave to?

**Word Study:** Slave (Greek, Doulos) one who gives himself up to another's will [whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men], devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests, man of servile condition.

**Question for Journaling:** As Paul is writing this letter he uses context his readers would understand – slavery. We learned last week that the Jews were well acquainted with captivity and along with it, slavery. What Paul is now presenting is that in Christ they now had a choice of what to be slave to. In earthly terms a person who was sold into slavery had no choices but to obey the master – in spiritual terms we choose the master, sin or righteousness. Most people don't think of sin as a master that is obeyed – what has been your perspective? If there's any doubt, think about how difficult it can be to do what is right when presented with options. If there's an internal battle then that means you must choose what you will serve. This is Paul's point... as a Christian freed from the slavery of sin we still need to choose to volunteer ourselves as slaves to Christian living – presenting our bodies, mind and thoughts to righteousness. What does that mean? The Christian life empowered by God's Holy Spirit gives us the ability to NOT sin and instead give us the desire to obey and please God but it is something to be chosen, learned and practiced every day. How does this challenge or encourage you?

*Today's Challenge:* If you are Christian, how hard or easy is it for you to **choose** to not sin? How hard or easy is it for you to **choose** to obey God? Last week you worked on a list of sin areas and how to respond to temptation - Day 6 Challenge referenced today's passage and memory verse asking what it means to not present yourself to sin. Make note if God has revealed anything new to you that you may have been doing but not aware of. Today, begin working on a list of how to present yourself as a slave to obey God.

Reflections \_\_\_\_\_

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# My Prayer...



Praise for:

Request for:

Forgiveness for:

Prayer Response: What is God telling you to do? What steps will you take in response to Him?



# The Good Life

## Episode 3: Life or Death

Tuesday, April 27

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:13

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Ephesians 4:1-31

**Going Deeper:** In verse 1 how does Paul introduce himself – as what? How does he urge believers to live? What gifts did Jesus give and for what purpose in verse 10-14? In verses 17 -24 how does Paul describe the new life – what are believers to put off and on?

**Word Study:** Prisoner (Greek Desmios) bound, in bonds, a captive, a prisoner.

Worthy (Greek Axios) suitably, worthily, in a manner worthy of.

Mature (Greek Teleion) complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, wanting nothing necessary to completeness).

**Question for Journaling:** In this portion of the letter to the Christians in Ephesus Paul gives specific examples of how to live in a manner worthy of being called a Christ follower. For many people the struggle comes with knowing how to live as a Christian in the little details of life as much as the big ones as well as changing the goal and motive. What do you notice about the “put offs” – who are they focused on? How does the focus and motive change when practicing the “put ons”? It becomes noticeable that being a slave to sin is a self-focused and self-serving life – we are slaves to pleasing ourselves. The Christian life is knowing and living in the new reality that we are now slaves to God, as Paul was, living to please and serve Him and others. If you are Christian, have you noticed this change in your life? Why/why not? For some people who want to become Christian there can be a resistance to the idea of being a slave to God and righteousness, why do you think that is? The thought of having to give up “fun”, independence, personality,





# The Good Life

## Episode 3: Life or Death

Wednesday, April 28

*Memory Verse:* Romans 6:13

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Deuteronomy 30:11-20

*Going Deeper:* How is God's command described in verses 11-14? In the remaining verses what has God set before us and what is His commandment? What are the results of obedience and disobedience?

*Question for Journaling:* What one thing has God given all people to know Him and how to live in faithful obedience? God has made available His word, the Bible, to us but many people who say they are Christian don't read it or at the very least only read it during a church activity. How important is reading the Bible to you? Do you go to it for decision making and other issues in life? Why/why not? In 2013 the Huffington post put out a report that the average American home had 4.4 Bibles yet many didn't read it – why do you think that is? God made it very clear in today's reading that we have no excuse for not reading and studying His word – it is not a burden or complicated, it's not hidden or hard to acquire yet it collects dust in many homes. Fast forward to 2021, and a report from the American Bible Society has found that with Covid keeping people at home that Bible reading has declined even further. The ability to follow God's commands and know how to live as a Christian faithfully, comes from consistent spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible, prayer, church attendance, life group, and volunteering. How are you doing in each of these areas? Even with current Covid conditions there are still many ways to connect and grow in Christ. If you would like to find out more about getting involved or have questions about how to read your Bible please call us for an appointment so we can help.



# The Good Life

## Episode 3: Life or Death

Thursday, April 29

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:13

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Ezekiel 18:1-32

**Going Deeper:** What proverb was Israel using that God commanded they stop using in verses 1-3? In verse 4 who do all lives belong to? As you read through the rest of the chapter, what do you notice about personal responsibility for living in sin or righteousness? What hope and warning is given in verses 19-23 and 24 – 26?

**Question for Journaling:** This chapter of Ezekiel challenges many popular teachings in today's churches and Christian/secular psychology. Common errors and misperceptions of doing good deeds to gain God's favor or blaming parents, experiences, or other outside situations for our problems and bad choices as well as God being unfair are all addressed here. How does this chapter challenge or encourage your understanding of personal responsibility, God's fairness, and consequences of our actions? How does this chapter provide hope for the repentant sinner? How does this chapter provide hope for those who struggle with guilt for their actions/choices that may have affected others? We do live in a world that labels and diagnoses every type of sin as a disease/disorder that is not our fault and can't be helped. Read Philippians 4:13, Matthew 19:26, and Romans 8:29-29 – What do these verses say about the possibility of change and healing when people choose to follow Christ?

**Today's Challenge:** List if you have viewed or been taught that the areas of sin you have been working on the last couple of weeks is the fault of another person, past experience, or current trials. How did you come to this conclusion? Next, using today's chapter journal, how it can be



# The Good Life

## Episode 3: Life or Death

Friday, April 30

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:13

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Luke 11:14-28

**Going Deeper:** What is the debate between some of the crowd and Jesus in verses 14-23? What powerful teaching does Jesus give in verses 24-26? What does Jesus say about those who hear God's word and obey in verse 28?

**Question for Journaling:** The conversation between Jesus and the people reveals how often logic can be nowhere in a conversation. Jesus points out the illogical train of thought of the people when He is accused of casting out demons by the ruler of demons – why would Satan work against himself? However did you notice Jesus didn't deny they were also casting out demons? Did you also notice Jesus didn't deny the reality of the existence of Satan? Because of their doubt, pride, and lack of understanding the people rejected the power of Christ as coming from God. Jesus then uses an unusual example of a demon-possessed man being healed then becoming possessed again. How do you think this is possible? The teaching here is that it is impossible to be neutral when it comes to Christ and His salvation. Even though the man was no longer possessed he also never chose to invite God in and follow His commands. The choice is to follow Christ or not – to make no choice or remaining "neutral" *is* a NO choice...so for those who have a "spiritual experience" or accept Christ without counting the cost and understanding the real commitment may be putting themselves in the position of "returning to their former state" or worse if they deliberately try to remain neutral or choose to do nothing after receiving Christ. Read Revelation 3:15-18 and Hebrews 6:1-6 – how do these passages apply to today's reading?

**Today's Challenge:** Take time today to evaluate if you have any doubt in your relationship with Christ or the teachings of Christ. Also, examine if you struggle with being lukewarm or neutral in





# The Good Life

## Episode 3: Life or Death

Saturday, May 1

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:13

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** 1 John 3:1-24

**Going Deeper:** In verses 1-3 what are believers called and why? What do those who have their hope in Christ do? What are the characteristics and differences of the two types of people described in verses 4-10? What is the qualifying characteristic of Christians that John points out in verses 13-17 & 23-24?

**Question for Journaling:** John presents a perplexing teaching that those who are fathered by God don't sin...actually he uses a pivotal word that we have already studied – practice. We know that true Christians still sin but they don't practice sinning. The other quality of true believers that is practiced is love. Yes, love must be practiced and demonstrated sacrificially. How easy is it for you to love people you like? How easy/hard is it for you to love people you don't get along with? Why is that? Based on today's reading and if you are Christian, is it an option? Love is the litmus test of our decision to follow Christ. Love, like forgiveness is not optional for Christians nor is it dependent on whether a person deserves it. If that were true then God and Jesus would be justified in not loving or forgiving you or anyone else! Since God sacrificed His Son out of love for us, we should WANT to choose to practice righteousness and love even if it's hard, we don't understand, or think it's not deserved. Do you love God enough to do this?

**Today's Challenge:** The choice to love others biblically is also not dependent on our feelings for them. List the times it is hardest for you to show love to others – it could be how you're feeling that day (emotionally or physically), how the person is treating you, etc. Next list how you can



# The Good Life

## Episode 4: *Eternal*

Monday, May 3

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Romans 6:19-23

**Going Deeper:** In this passage, what question does the Apostle Paul ask about the benefits of sin? What is the final result of sin? What is the final result of being a slave to God?

**Word Study:** Sanctification (Greek: hagioismon) purification, consecration, purity, holy

**Question for Journaling:** As Paul is finishing his lesson on being a slave to sin or slave to righteousness he reminds his readers, and us, that the final result of each is an eternity in either hell (death) or heaven with God. Do you want to go to Heaven when you die? Why? Last week we learned about making choices – to be a slave to righteousness and living like Christ on a daily moment-by-moment basis. Although the initial act of repentance and submitting to Christ as Lord and Savior immediately cleanses us from sin (justification) all Christians will spend the rest of their lives learning how to live in that reality each day – taking off the old and putting on the new...that's called sanctification. Sanctification is the process of becoming holy by removing old habits and living new godly habits out of love and humble obedience to God. This practice secures our eternity in Heaven. Think of it this way – if you bought a plane ticket to Hawaii, what do you have? If you kept the ticket but never made hotel reservations, packed your suitcase or got on the plane, what do you have? This may be a crude way to make a point, but how does this help you understand the need to work on sanctification in relation to eternity? How does this work together with last week's study?

**Today's Challenge:** Many people misunderstand or have never been taught what sanctification is and simply ask Jesus to be their Savior so they don't go to hell. What was your initial motive? Has that changed? What is your motive now and why?



# The Good Life

## Episode 4: *Eternal*

Tuesday, May 4

*Memory Verse:* Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

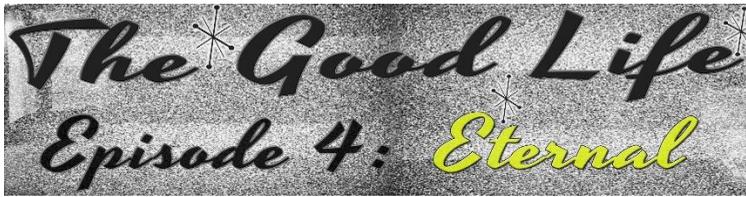
*Today's Reading:* Mark 9:33-50

*Going Deeper:* What does Jesus teach about being first and last in verse 35? In verses 42-50 what does Jesus teach about the serious nature of personal sacrifice?

*Question for Journaling:* Today's reading reveals the very normal human nature of the disciples! They were arguing among themselves over who was greater because they still didn't quite understand that the kingdom Jesus was setting up was not an earthly government but a spiritual one so they were fighting for a top position on His leadership team. Jesus quickly corrects them and teaches about status. How counterintuitive is it to voluntarily be last or lowest on a team? Why do you think Jesus teaches this? What is also counterintuitive is the intensity in which sin is viewed...although we may never consider actually cutting off a body part to stop sinning Jesus is clear on how important it is to remove anything that causes us to stumble. How does this challenge or encourage you? In context Jesus is using this example in not causing a "little one" (child or new Christian) to stumble so the importance of removing sin is not only to help us but also to not cause another to sin as well. Part of Christian life and sanctification is the consideration of others and the example we show them. How would this help you grow spiritually?

*Today's Challenge:* Are you willing to make personal sacrifices in order to follow Christ's teaching today? Continuing to work on last week's list or starting a new one, how can you practice being last and removing anything that causes you to sin?





# The Good Life

## Episode 4: *Eternal*

Wednesday, May 5

*Memory Verse:* Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* Luke 9:23-27

*Going Deeper:* In verse 23 what three things does Jesus say a person must do if they want to be His follower? What must a person do to save his life?

*Question for Journaling:* "You can't take it with you" is or was a popular saying about the inability to take our earthly possessions with us when we die. Of course we know this is a true statement but it doesn't stop people from working to accumulate wealth and get as many things as possible. Although wealth isn't a sin issue, how we view it can be. Here, Jesus is teaching about motive and priorities – what are your priorities? Does Jesus come first? Throughout His ministry Jesus often taught about the importance of rearranging our priorities with special emphasis on seeking God's kingdom first (Matthew 6:33) the challenge of the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10 and Matthew 19:24) and family (Luke 9:59-62). At first glance this may seem harsh but Jesus wanted TRUE followers not fans who followed Him around. He is telling them to count the cost of following – it will be hard, painful at times, and require great personal sacrifice. Have you experienced this? In what way? If you are a true follower how have your priorities changed? How has your view of possessions changed? This is the fruit of sanctification and maturity in Christ.

*Today's Challenge:* If you are Christian, list the ways in which you have 1. denied yourself, 2. taken up your cross, 3. followed Christ. Also list what you have given up for Christ and how it has blessed you or changed you. Finally, if you haven't done this yet, list what ways you can begin to practice.



# The Good Life

## Episode 4: *Eternal*

Thursday, May 6

*Memory Verse:* Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Pray:* As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

*Today's Reading:* 1 Peter 4:1-19

*Going Deeper:* According to verses 1-2 what should the believer's attitude be and what should they be concerned with? In verses 3-4 how has the believer's life changed and what are the non-believers surprised by? In verses 7-11 how are we to serve one another and why? What shouldn't surprise Christians in verse 12? In the remaining verses how can a Christian be happy in regards to suffering?

*Question for Journaling:* Much of the process of spiritual maturity comes through trials and suffering. Whether through persecution (Matthew 5:11-12), discipline (Hebrews 12:6), or purification (John 15:2) we grow under pressure! How do you grow best? Is it when things are going well or when they're not? How do you handle the stress of trials? In today's passage, the emphasis is a changed life in Christ and the challenges that can come with it as seen in the person who is rejected by people/friends/family when they no longer participate in old ways. Have you experienced this? How did it affect you? Here Peter is saying we can rejoice when we are rejected and persecuted in that we are sharing in the sufferings of Christ! Do you consider it a joy to suffer for Christ? Why/why not? Much of the challenge is knowing whether we are being persecuted or simply enduring normal trials. What clue does Peter give in verse 15 to help answer this? Be encouraged in knowing that persecution and trials are meant to help you grow (James 1:2-4), be on guard knowing that Satan wants you to fail (1 Peter 5:8) but when you resist the devil and practice obedience to Christ He will strengthen you (1Peter 5:9-11).

*Today's Challenge:* If you are suffering persecution or going through trials, take time to evaluate if it because you are suffering consequences of sinful behavior or Christ-like behavior. List what you are learning through this.





# The Good Life

## Episode 4: *Eternal*

Friday, May 7

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** Luke 6:27-49

**Going Deeper:** What does Jesus teach about how to love our enemies in verses 27-36? What does Jesus teach about judging and forgiveness in verses 37-42? What does He teach about "fruit" in verses 43-46? Finally what does He teach about the person who listens and practices what He teaches and those who don't in verses 47-49?

**Word Study:** Enemies (Greek: Echthrous) hated, odious, hostile, opposing another.

Love (Greek: Agape) to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly.

**Question for Journaling:** It is a hard thing to not judge someone and even harder to love someone who is hostile toward us. When Jesus would confront people in sin He was judging their actions because He could – He had no logs in His eye! Not so with us...we do have logs (sin) and sadly we can judge others so easily and withhold biblical love while feeling totally justified. Do you struggle with this? One of the qualifying markers of spiritual growth is how we treat those who have treated us badly - owning up to our part, forgiving and asking forgiveness and serving them in spite of the situation is the fruit of sanctification. How hard is this for you to do? Our example is Christ – if yesterday's lesson taught us to rejoice in the sufferings of Christ, then we should also respond to our persecutors like Him as well. Review Romans 5:10, what are sinners called? What did Christ do for them? While we were guilty and enemies of God, He demonstrated His love by giving the life of His Son for ours! Why would we ever think we have the right to judge others and stop loving and serving them? How does this challenge or encourage you?



# The Good Life

## Episode 4: *Eternal*

Saturday, May 8

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Pray:** As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

**Today's Reading:** John 13:1-17

**Going Deeper:** What is the timeframe of today's reading? What did Jesus do in verses 4-5? What dialog took place between Jesus and Peter? What did Jesus then do and what was His teaching?

**Word Study:** Clean (Greek: katharos) pure, physically, purified by fire, in a similitude, like a vine cleansed by pruning and so fitted to bear fruit, free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt.

**Question for Journaling:** If there was ever an example of yesterday's lesson this is it! In this scene Jesus knows what is going to take place and who is going to betray Him. Yet Jesus didn't withhold teaching Judas what He was teaching the disciples nor did He refuse to wash his feet. Can you imagine washing the feet of your enemy? The disciples clearly didn't understand Jesus' point at this time but they would as we do today. Although foot washing is not a normal part of life now the act of humble servanthood Jesus demonstrated was what He wants ALL disciples [past, present, and future] to do. This act was not a matter of cleaning, yet by the definition in the word study, the willingness to wash the feet of another "cleanses" us! It takes an incredible willingness to humble one's self to wash someone's feet even if it's someone you like – how does Jesus' example motivate you?

**Today's Challenge:** Many Christians and churches participate in what is called Maundy Thursday – Maundy meaning command, referring to the command to serve one another in humility the way Jesus demonstrated. Is there someone God wants you to serve in this way? For more information on Maundy Thursday, go to: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Maundy-Thursday.html>



