

11-30-2011 LIFE IS A GIFT

We have spoken of burdens, of the difficulties of life. While factual, we must never lose site of one basic truth—LIFE IS A GIFT. I'm Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

LIFE IS A GIFT from God. All too often, we look at our lives as necessary burdens, filled with misery. The way we view things can change the way we live. You're either living to die or dying to live! If you are negative, you are waiting to die. If you are positive, you strive to live, embracing God & others.

The negative approach is exemplified by an inspirational life story called THE GIFT OF LIFE. It speaks volumes about our existence. Listen closely. Does it apply to anyone you know? "On the very first day, God created the cow, saying, 'today, I have created you! You must go to the field with the farmer all day long & work all day under the sun. I will give you a life-span of 50 years.'

The cow objected, 'What? This kind of a tough LIFE you want me to live for 50 years? Let me have 20 years, & the 30 years I'll give back to you.' So God agreed. On the second day, God created the dog. God said to the dog, 'you are supposed to sit all day by the door of your house. Any people that come in, you will have to bark at them! I'll give you a life-span of 20 years.'

The dog objected, 'What? All day long to sit by the door? No way! I give you back my other 10 years of LIFE!' So God agreed. On the third day, God created the monkey. He said to the monkey, 'monkeys have to entertain people. You've got to make them laugh & do monkey tricks. I'll give you a 20 year life-span.'

The monkey objected. 'What? Make them laugh? Do monkey faces & tricks? Ten years will do, & the other ten years I'll give you back.' So God agreed. On the fourth day, God created man & said to him, 'your job is to sleep, eat, work & play. You will enjoy very much in your life. All you need to do is enjoy. This kind of life, I'll give you a 20 year life-span.'

The man objected. 'What? Such a good life! Eat, play, work, sleep, enjoy the best & you expect me to live for only 20 years? No way, man!...Why don't we make a deal? Since the cow gave you back 30 years & the dog gave you back ten years & the monkey gave you back ten years, I will take them from you! That makes my life-span 70 years, right?' So God agreed.

& that's why...In our first 20 years, we eat, sleep, play, enjoy the best & do nothing much. For the next 30 years, we work all day, suffer, & support the family. For the next ten years, we entertain grandchildren, making monkey faces. & for the last ten years, we stay at home, sit by the front door & bark at people!"

That was a good dose of reality, wasn't it? LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD. In her address at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. on February 3, 1994, Mother Teresa of Calcutta spoke on LIFE being a GIFT FROM GOD:

She said, "Jesus gave His life to love us & He tells us that we also have to do good to one another. In the Gospel, Jesus says very clearly, 'love as I have loved you,' John 13:34. Jesus died on the Cross because that is what it took for Him to do good to us—to save us from sin. He gave up everything to do the Father's will.

We, too must be willing to give up everything to God's will—to love each other as He loves each of us. If we are not willing to give whatever it takes to for one another, sin is still in us. That is why we, too, must give to each other until it hurts."

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--& this not from yourselves, it is THE GIFT OF GOD." 1 Corinthians 7:7 says, "Each man has his own GIFT FROM GOD."

The GIFT FROM GOD is Jesus Christ through whom we have life, hope, faith, & love. Each day is a GIFT. Each breath is a GIFT. Every cent we earn is a GIFT. Every friend is a GIFT. Our health, our home, our church are GIFTS. All creation is a GIFT FROM GOD. LIFE IS A GIFT. Take that approach & you will become beyond reproach when God broaches the subject of Heaven!

For a text copy, e-mail me @ kentrahan@aol.com & ask for LIFE IS A GIFT. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I'm Ken Trahan. God bless you!