**Life in 6 Words – Week 6 - “LIFE”**

*“Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever”*

Intro option: Life IN 6 Words Video

**Story of Derek Redmond** - At the [1992 Olympic Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1992_Summer_Olympics) in Barcelona, Derek Redmond tore his [hamstring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamstring) in the 400 meters semi-final. His race is over. He is in physical pain. Overwhelmed by his emotions. He is down and out. In crowd his father watches in horror the physical and emotional pain that his son is enduring.

The pain of his son, and the love for his son, moves him to respond by instinct. He rushes to the boy, who is clearly devastated. He lifts his son from the ground. Put’s his arm round him, and slowly begins to help Derek complete the race.

Derek Redmond was disqualified. The final listing read, "Did Not Finish" due to the outside assistance to finish the race. This father son story is not remembered because Derek Redmond, did not finish the race. It is a well-remembered moment in Olympic history, of a father who rushed to help his son.

There’s something powerful and beautiful about the love of a father for his child. This is the essence of what we are talking about during this final week of Life In 6 Words, a journey through the G.O.S.P.E.L.

This is a very effective tool to communicate the Good News of Jesus to others CLEARLY, and tell the story of the Bible in 6 sentences...Life in 6 words.

**G – God Created us to be with him. (Genesis 1-2)**

**O – Our sins separate us from God. (Genesis 3)**

**S – Sins cannot be removed by good deeds. (Genesis 4 – Malachi 4)**

**P – Paying the price for sin Jesus died and rose again. (Matt. – Luke)**

**E – Everyone who trusts in him alone has eternal life. (John)**

**L – Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever (Acts – Revelation).**

***“Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!”***

What an amazing gift, to receive eternal life, and what a joy to know that you

have LIFE with Jesus. This is not a hope-so, think-so salvation. You can

know that you have eternal life, and God wants you to know!

*“And 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. 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 5:11-13

“Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.”

1. **Eternal life STARTS NOW.**

This is relational…we have it NOW! Here’s what Jesus has to say about this...

*“I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.”* - John 6:47

*“…****has*** *everlasting life.”*

You don’t get eternal life after you die. You get it as soon as you believe in Jesus.

*“Very truly I tell you, 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.”* - John 5:24

Whenever someone puts his trust in Jesus, he has eternal life. It is not he will have eternal life. He has eternal life. And he, “has crossed over from death to life.” What an amazing truth and promise!

Quote from Corrie Ten Boom - “[You know, eternal life does not start when we go to heaven. It starts the moment you reach out to Jesus. He never turns His back on anyone. And He is waiting for you.](https://www.azquotes.com/quote/798641?ref=eternal-life)”

This is the kind of life that doesn’t just survive, it thrives!

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* – John 10:10

In the New Testament, there are 3 Greek words for “life”: “bios” (biology), “psuche” (psychology), and “zoe”…“Zoe” – divine life uniquely possessed by God, eternal life, spiritual life, the intimately woven indwelling of God’s life. “Zoe is used most often in connection with ‘eternal life.’ This life is the very life of God. As believers we become partakers of that life.”

As Christians we must realize that salvation is more than just getting a ticket to go to heaven. But it’s experiencing the very life flow of God himself.

*“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”* - John 17:3

“What were we made for? To know God. What aim should we have in life? To know God. What is the eternal life that Jesus gives? To know God. What is the best thing in life? To know God. What in humans gives God most pleasure? Knowledge of himself.” - J. I. Packer

The foundation of eternal life is a relationship, not a set of theological beliefs. But those theological beliefs can help us deepen our relationship with God when we understand and apply them.

The foundation of eternal life is a relationship with God, and it starts now, at the moment of salvation. This is a wonderful truth that no other religion or belief system/worldview has…

**Atheist** - Doesn’t believe in God.

**Agnostic** - Doesn’t’ know if there is a God.

**Deist** - God created the world and left us alone.

**Theist** - belief in a God but not necessarily the God of the Bible…a God that must be pleased and appeased by our actions.

**Christian** - belief in the God of the Bible and faith in his Son for salvation…only Christianity, true Christianity, has intimacy with God in a Father/child relationship.

Intimacy with God is so powerful because God is so powerful. He is the Creator, Sustainer and Ruler. Jesus is the One who will Judge the Living and the Dead. He is the one who appeared to John, his best friend on earth, in Revelation chapter one in his glorified form, and John passes out!

God the Father is our Father. Jesus, according to Hebrews 2, is our Big

Brother. And the Holy Spirit, according to John 14:26, is our Helper,

Teacher and Guide.

1. **Eternal life LASTS FOREVER.**

Thanks to Jesus, we have a personal, permanent relationship with the God of the universe!

And this gift of eternal life starts now and stretches into eternity. It’s not just about the quality of eternal life. It’s also about the quantity of it.

I’m so sure I’m going to heaven when I die, because of Christ’s life, death and resurrection, and because of what Christ has done, and because

of God’s ability to keep his promises to me.

**5 reasons why we can know for sure that we have eternal life.**

1. **Jesus promised it (John 6:37).**

***“****All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.” – John 6:37*

1. **We are in his hands and he will never let us go (John 10:28-30).**

*“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.**I and the Father are one.” - John 10:28-30*

Nobody is stronger than God, not even Satan, so no one can snatch you out of his hand…including yourself. Thanks to Jesus, we have a personal, permanent relationship with the God of the universe!

1. **We have been adopted into his family (Galatians 4:4-7).**

*“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.” – Galatians 4:4-7*

“Sonship” is very important. Ellen Mady wrote about adoption in the ancient Roman culture. She helps us understand the power and permanence of being adopted:

“In ancient Rome, adoption had a powerful meaning. When a child was born biologically, the parents had the option of disowning the child for a variety of reasons. The relationship, therefore, was not necessarily desired by the parent, nor permanent. Not so, however, if a child was adopted. In Rome, adopting a child meant: That child was freely chosen by the parents, *desired* by the parents.

That child would be a permanent part of the family; parents couldn’t disown a child they adopted. An adopted child received a new identity. Any prior commitments, responsibilities and debts were erased. New rights and responsibilities were taken on. Also, in ancient Rome, the concept of inheritance was part of life, not something that began at death. Being adopted made someone an heir to their father, joint-sharers in all his possessions and fully united to him.”

This was a permanent adoption in the Roman culture of the day. It could not be reversed.

1. **You’ve been sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14).**

*“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.” – Ephesians 1:13-14*

Illustration: Show a Fed Ex envelope and tell them to imagine that is destined for Heaven, and write “To: Heaven” on the envelope. Ask for a member of the audience (pre-selected or spontaneously, if you dare) to give you their driver’s license. Tell them the driver’s license represents them.

Place their driver’s license into the Fed Ex envelope and tell them at as a Christian, that they are included “in Christ” at the moment of salvation. Then tell them they have been “sealed”, and then seal the envelope.

The destination is Heaven, the recipient is the Father, and my soul is secure in Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit, until the Father opens it on the day of redemption.

1. **Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:31-39).**

*“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who*

*can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?  Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.  Who then is the one who condemns?*

*No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

*As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” - Romans 8:31-39*

Personal story. Nightmare of dying. Assurance of Salvation.

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!

But what about people that abuse God’s grace? What if someone trusts in Jesus but there is no change whatsoever in their lives?

There is one of two options: either they were never saved to begin with, or God will discipline them.

Eternal life is not a license to sin but a reason to serve! Having the assurance of salvation enables us to serve the Lord out of joy, and not out of compulsion. Do you have salvation? (Share the GOSPEL). Do you have assurance? Seize it. Invitation/Response Time