

November 28/29, 2009
What's Really Worth Living For?

We live in a world where Satan, the tempter and deceiver, constantly seeks to deceive and tempt people into living for things that really aren't worth living for. He tried to do it to Jesus and he does the same thing to us today.
Matthew 4:1

Satan tempts people to live for five things that appear to satisfy their deepest desires but are fake substitutes for the real purposes of life. He knows that if he can keep people preoccupied with pursuing what's has fleeting value they won't have the time, energy or desire to pursue what is eternally valuable.

Five Fake Substitutes of a Deceived Culture

- 1. Fortune**
- 2. Fame**
- 3. Fun**
- 4. Freedom**
- 5. Fulfillment**

These five fake substitutes all stem from a fixation on three unfulfilling loves.
2 Timothy 3:1-4

Jesus, the truth, made it perfectly clear that those who make these kinds of fake substitutes their life goal are fools.
Luke 12:13-21

This parable reminds us of what Satan wants us to forget!

1) Life here is only temporary and can be over when you least expect it.
Psalms 39:4

2) We lose everything we lived to acquire when we die.
1 John 2:15-17

Five Things Worth Living For

1) Rich relationship with a great and glorious God. *John 17:3; Exodus 15:11; Revelation 4:11; Hebrews 1:3; Exodus 34:14b; Psalm 42:1b-2a*
James 4:8a – "Come close to God, and God will come close to you."

2) Right use of your life for His glory and eternal rewards.
John 17:4; Isaiah 43:10; Romans 6:13; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 6:19-21; Revelation 22:12

3) Real loving relationships with your forever family.
John 13:34-35; Romans 15:7; Hebrews 10:23-25

4) Radiant transformation into increasing Christ-likeness.
2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:11; 2 Corinthians 4:17

5) Reaping priceless souls for a priceless eternity.
John 4:34-38; Revelation 7:9-12

Live completely for what lasts forever and you'll live a life without regrets.

Discussion Questions

1) Study how Satan tried to tempt Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11. What did Satan appeal to? Can you share a time you felt tempted in a similar way? Now study the parable in Luke 12:13-21. What can we learn from this man's drastic mistake?

2) Which of the five fake substitutes for life purposes are you most tempted by? What truths help you resist their pull? Now review what the Bible says is worth living for. Which of these things are you honestly pursuing and praying for?

3) What changes do you need to make so you are living more for what is truly worthwhile? Share those with one another and pray for the grace we all need to live a life without regret.