

Introduction

Mr Moraitis – the secret to a long and happy life



Discussion

According to the world, what makes life worth living?

How do Christians generally view their life here on earth (in what ways the same/different)?

What does 'eternal life' often mean to a Christian?

What does Jesus say about eternal life? (Look up John 17:3)

1. Extreme Verse

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Present experience: Eternal Life

Future assurance: Not Guilty

Past reality: Spiritually Dead

2. Purpose of John

John 20:30-31 - Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

WORDS

*...of Jesus
...of John
...of Bible*



BELIEF

Faith / Trust



LIFE

*Relationship with
God: starts now –
lasts forever*

3. Context of Extreme Verse

John 5

i. Setting the Scene (v1-3)

ii. An offer of Life (v5-13)

Jesus physically heals... (v7-9a)

...but has a bigger agenda than physical healing (v9b-13)

iii. A warning about death (v14)

iv. Jesus' true identity: equal with God (v17-24)

Jesus gives life

Jesus is the judge

Discussion: Thinking about our Extreme Verse in its context.

1. Past Reality: Spiritually Dead (5:24)

How does the account of the invalid man help us to see the normal spiritual state of humanity?

What difference should understanding this past reality make to the Christian's...
...relationship with God?
...evangelism?

2. Present Experience: Eternal Life (5:24)

How does what Jesus did for the man help the Christian to appreciate/understand our present spiritual state, ie having eternal life?

What does honouring the Son (5:23) look like in the Christian's life?

3. Future Assurance: Not Guilty (5:24)

The Christian is assured that they have passed from death to life and will not face judgement. What difference should that make to us? And to the non-believer?

(Only if you have time – otherwise go to last question): How do verses 25-29 help us to understand Jesus' role as judge?

4. Final Question: 5:24 hinges on hearing and believing God's Word.

How can Christians ensure that we keep God's Word at the heart of our lives?