

# **“IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE”**

Isaiah 9:6

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. One of my favorite movies of all time is regularly shown during the Holiday season: “It’s a Wonderful Life” starring Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey.
  - 1. In the movie George becomes discouraged because he did not get to do all he had planned with his life.
  - 2. After a financial setback, he comes to the conclusion that his family would be better off if he was dead.
  - 3. He jumps into a river to end his life and an “angel” named Clarence jumps in to save him.
  - 4. George is given the opportunity to see what life would have been like if he had never been born.
  - 5. He is shown and reminded of all the good he had done for others.
  - 6. The conclusion: He comes to appreciate his life and decides that he wants to live.
- B. Perhaps we as Christians need to learn the same kind of lesson: a lesson in appreciating our life.
  - 1. Perhaps our earthly life.
  - 2. Even more so our spiritual life.
- C. Today I want to remind you of some reasons why the Christian life is “A Wonderful Life.”
- D. Christianity is *a wonderful life* because:

## **I. THERE IS A WONDERFUL SAVIOR. Isaiah 9:6.**

- A. “A Wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord” (Not in our songbook).
- B. Isaiah wrote: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” **Isaiah 9:6.**
  - 1. The Hebrew word *pele'* ^6382^ means: "wonder; marvel."
  - 2. This noun frequently expresses the "wonder," the extraordinary aspects, of God's dealings with His people <Exod. 15:11; Ps. 77:11; Isa. 29:14>. The messianic title, "marvel of a counselor" <Isa. 9:6>; KJV, RSV, "wonderful counselor", points toward God's Anointed continuing the marvelous acts of God. (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words).
- C. What some in the Bible said about our *WONDERFUL Savior*:
  - 1. The angel told Joseph: “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” *Matthew 1:21.*
  - 2. John the baptizer said: “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! *John 1:29.*

3. Jesus Himself said: “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” *Luke 19:10.*
- D. He is our WONDERFUL Savior because of what He did:
1. We are redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot,” *1 Peter 1:18-19.*
  2. “Much more then, having now been *justified by His blood*, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” *Romans 5:9.*
  3. “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”; 1Peter 2:22.
- E. *WHY* did this WONDERFUL Savior die for us?
1. “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.” 1 John 3:16.
  2. “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” *John 15:13.*
- F. He wants to be EVERYONE’S WONDERFUL Savior.
1. He is the Savior today of all those who have obeyed the Gospel.
  2. He has never promised to save those who do not obey Him.
  3. As a matter of fact, He will tell some, “*Depart from Me*, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” *Matthew 25:41.*
- G. Is HE YOUR WONDERFUL Savior today?

## II. WE WEAR A WONDERFUL NAME.

- A. “There’s something in a name.”
1. Names mean something to us today.
    - a. If you don’t think that is so, say something about a person’s family name.
    - b. There are some family names from Huntsville that bring to mind someone who is dishonest, lazy and morally corrupt.
  2. If you don’t think there is something in a name, try giving someone who has asked for some name brand toy or clothes one that is similar but is not that brand. (Steve -- Adidas shoes).
- B. We have been given a WONDERFUL name.
1. “And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” *Acts 11:26.*
  2. Some say this name was given in derision by the enemies of the church.
- C. However, God had promised to give a NEW NAME, **Isaiah 62:1-2.**
1. This is a prophecy of the time the Gentiles would enter the kingdom and God’s people would receive a new name: “The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name.” (*Verse 2*). (cf. Acts 11:26 -- Name was not given in derision - it was given by God).
  2. The Gentiles received the gospel when Peter went to the house of Cornelius, *Acts 10.*

- D. God PROMISED a new name and that new name is a very special name -- He gave us the name of His only begotten son, Jesus Christ.
1. We are privileged to wear that name, yet even in Paul's day some were saying: "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."  
***1 Corinthians 1:12.***
  2. Today there are some who refuse to wear the name of Jesus or wear a MAN-MADE name.
- E. ***Since we wear the name of Christian, we must wear it with pride and a determination to GLORIFY His name.***

### III. IT IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO LIVE.

- A. Various views of the Christian life:
1. This life DOES NOT APPEAL to some.
  2. Others take it FOR GRANTED.
  3. Still others consider it a BURDEN.
- B. This WONDERFUL life is a gift from God, **2 Peter 1:3-4.**
1. He "has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness," v.3.
  2. He has "given to us exceedingly great and precious promises," v.4.
  3. We become "partakers of the divine nature," v.4.
  4. "Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." v.4.
    - a. How else can we escape the wickedness around us?
    - b. Our lives are so much better because we leave behind the corruption of the world.
- C. This WONDERFUL life will make your *earthly* life so much better:
1. It makes you A BETTER PERSON at home, on the job, in social situations, etc.
  2. It makes for A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE.
- D. Those who are Christians have conduct that is modeled after the One whose wonderful name they wear. (Philippians 2:3-5).
- E. "*Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*" **2 Timothy 2:19.**

### IV. THERE IS A WONDERFUL PROMISE OF A FUTURE LIFE.

- A. We look beyond this life to what lies ahead in the future, **Hebrews 11:13-16.**
1. The faithful of the ages died in faith, "not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." v.13.
  2. They were seeking a homeland after this life, v.14.
  3. "But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country." v.16.
- B. Seek things things which are above; Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth, **Colossians 3:1-2.**

C. ILLUSTRATION: Tom Friends of The New York Times asked coach Jimmy Johnson what he told his players before leading the Dallas Cowboys onto the field for the 1993 Super Bowl.

"I told them that if I laid a two-by-four across the floor, everybody there would walk across it and not fall, because our focus would be on walking the length of that board. But if I put that same board 10 stories high between two buildings, only a few would make it, because the focus would be on falling." Johnson told his players not to focus on the crowd, the media, or the possibility of falling, but to focus on each play of the game as if it were a good practice session. The Cowboys won the game 52-7. **WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS?**

D. Jesus promised: "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

***John 14:1-3.***

1. That is a promise made to US also, if we will obey Him and remain faithful.
2. Someone has said: "If we will overcome, He will let us come over and spend eternity with Him."

E. We must not lose sight of Heaven as our WONDERFUL promised home.

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. This ***WONDERFUL name, WONDERFUL way of life and WONDERFUL reward*** is only for the one who is obedient to the ***WONDERFUL SAVIOR.***
- B. "It's a Wonderful Life" for the Christian.
- C. Are YOU a Christian today?

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