



God's Guarantee - Life

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Introduction:

We have been looking at God's guarantees as we embark on this New Year. Today is sanctity of human life Sunday. For many years people have spoken out about abortion and that life begins at conception.

Life is precious. It is something that should be valued and honored, from conception to natural death, and God has given us the opportunity through life to know Him and establish a relationship with Him so that we will know His blessings here on earth, and know eternal blessing in heaven.

TEXT: Deut. 30:19-20 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

If one reads this passage from scripture in context, they will see that this is a renewal of the covenant that God had made with His people. When God gave Moses the law, it was not to destroy the people, but so the people had instruction as to God's standards, and His expectations. The law became a school master to teach, and from the law we gain the knowledge of the waywardness and wickedness of our own heart.

Life comes from God. Choose life so you and your children may live.

God's part is that He will give life not only to the current generation, but to their children as well. I have said it before and I repeat it this morning that the decisions and things we do affects not only us, but others as well. Here we see that the choice God set before His people was going to impact their children as well.

There are times that you think that little thing you do no one sees or cares about only affects you and your relationship to God, but if it affects that, it will also impact the heritage you pass on to the next generation. If your relationship with God is compromised, what is to say that will not negatively affect the children you influence?

There are three things that seem to be associated with choosing life.

I. Choosing life includes loving the Lord God

To live life and not know God is not really living life. There is something that is incomplete. Something that is void, empty, vacant and meaningless without

God. People search for all kinds of things to fill that empty space in their being, and what they really want is to fill the void with God.

Sex, drugs, alcohol, spending money, dieting, eating too much, are all symptoms of a much deeper need that we try to fill on a temporal level. We allow these

things into our lives, and those things take control and become addictions and a problem to us.

If you are going to truly live life to the fullest, because we only go around once, then fill your life with God, and find the guarantee of not only peace, and joy and satisfaction here, but eternal life as well.

We cannot love someone and have proper respect for them if we do not value and respect ourselves. However, we can not truly love ourselves unless we fall in love with the Lord God. He is our creator and we are made in His image and likeness. If we don't love God, we can't love ourselves, and neither can we live life to the fullest.

Scripture tells us that we cannot love God and hate our brother. How can we love God who we have not seen and yet not love the person sitting near us or living down the street, or working along side us on our job?

It is in relationships that love develops. If you want your life to be enriched, fall in love with God. Many people do not see the value of their life or someone else's life, because they don't love GOD. They put their affection in other things. People will make a god out of anything. In fact God tells His people that He wants first place in our lives. He wants us to love Him above everything else.

II. Choosing life includes: Listening to His voice

God speaks, we listen and respond. Voice patterns are like finger prints. There are distinctive qualities to each individual voice. Tone, pitch and vocal quality are unique to each person. God's voice is unique as well.

The Lord tells us that His sheep know His voice and they follow Him. To follow His voice is to know it and heed it. Do you remember as a child hearing something your parent said to you? You maybe can recall the tone or the volume or the words.

God expects us to respond to His voice. What good is it for God to speak to us, and for us to ignore what He is saying to us? He may be warning us, He may be encouraging us, He may be instructing us, and if we miss what He is saying to us, we put ourselves at risk. We may even be in danger of our lives.

To hear the voice of the one who loves us the most and knows us the best is truly exciting.

I think the verbal expression of God to our hearts and minds is so powerful and so important. There have been times when God has spoken to me and I have listened and responded in obedience, and it has saved me from danger, from sin, from foolish mistakes, and from disaster.

There have been other times when He has spoken and I have not acted on what He has said. I'm sure those moments were disappointing to Him, but have also put me at risk in my relationship to Him, and in daily activities.

Our part is to listen and act in obedience. Some people have a gift or talent of tuning someone out.

My grandfather Reed had a floor radio. It had knobs on it, and a huge speaker with preset buttons to tune in various stations. If grandpa didn't like what he was hearing on one station, he would twist the knob or push the button to get to another station.

We do that today with TV. If the program doesn't appeal to us, we change the channel. It's called surfing. We move from one wave of entertainment to another.

When God speaks to us, we should not push the button or twist the dial, especially if what He says to us is different than our will and desires. If you are choosing life, be careful to listen and respond to His voice.

You and I can hear lots of things in the course of a day. Some of what we hear is good, some of it uplifting, some of it negative and bad. We can filter what we want to hear and what we want to respond to. When it comes to choosing life, listen to His voice.

III. Choosing life includes holding fast to Him

The meaning of this word is to cleave and it has the same meaning as a husband cleaving to his wife. It means to be united, to be one and together with. Other definitions include to catch by pursuing, or to abide.

If we want to have life, we have to pursue Him. God's word indicates that there is more than just

physical life. There is the eternal aspect of life that He promises for those who love Him, for those who pursue or chase after Him.

To cling to Him here, and pursue Him here will guarantee us eternal life in heaven.

John 6:40 “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Titus 3:7 “...so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

If we believe God’s word to be true, then clinging to Him here will cause us to be ready to live with Him there.

I was thinking about the challenge from last week. It amazes me that somehow we can believe God and have faith for eternal life, and trust His word to live with Him forever. On the other hand, we struggle in our faith to trust Him with the concept of tithing, and trusting that He will take care of us and provide for us and bless us in that obedience. How can we trust Him with heaven and His promise there and not trust Him with all the other promises His word declares to us including tithing?

In life there are many joys and challenges. You can fill in the blank as to what the challenge is or has been for you. Some of those challenges come as storms in relationships, as illnesses, the death of a loved one, financial set-backs, disappointments, the consequences of poor choices. It is in those times, we can choose to pursue Him and cling to Him, or give

up on Him and be overwhelmed with the circumstances.

Remember we have not chosen to hold fast to Him to only enjoy life here, we are also choosing eternal life.

At times in life we don’t understand and we feel like giving up, but the circumstances don’t change the truth that He is still there, loving us, holding out His arms to us, speaking to us above the noise of the storm in that still small voice. He is saying, “I care, I love you, come close.”

In being fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, it is important that we chose life and that means holding fast to Him.

Certainly the Israelite people had some fears and storms and temptations that could have made them feel like they wanted to despair and give up on God and life. But God had a plan for them, and He has a plan for each of us as well. That plan includes living life, and clinging or holding fast to Him.

His plan for the Israeli people was to bring them into the land of promise. This land was a place that had been promised to them where they could settle and call their own.

God’s plan of life for us includes the same thing. It includes a place where we can live in peace, settle and call our own. Part of the inheritance for those who cleave to Him is Heaven. He will be there forever, protecting, sustaining, nourishing and providing for us.

It is worthwhile for us to pursue Him. It is worthwhile for us to choose life.

Conclusion:

Without love there can be no obedience. Obey His voice. Without obedience love is fruitless and dead. And cleave unto Him. Without close attachment and perseverance, temporary love, however sincere and fervent – temporary obedience, however disinterested, energetic, and pure while it lasts, will be ultimately ineffectual. He alone who endures to the end shall be saved.