**PRINCIPLES FOR LIFE**

Sunday School Lesson 1

*Bible Principles for Daily Living*

2 Timothy 4:6-7

6/12/2022

**Introduction:** Starting this morning, we are moving into our new Sunday School lesson series. I anticipated going in a different direction for our next lesson series, but I believe this topic on *Bible Principles for Daily Living* is what the Lord would have us to study over the next few months. The definition of *principle* is the cause, source, or origin of anything; that from which a thing proceeds; ground; foundation; a general truth; a tenet which serves as a rule of action or the basis of a system. The Bible uses the word in two places: Hebrews 5:12 and 6:1. In both of these verses, the Bible refers to the basic principles of Christianity (Most basic principle would be to live in faith). It then challenges us to go further and deeper into our Spiritual walk where we will undoubtedly anchor ourselves with more principles that we ought to live by. As Christians, it is essential that we live a principled life. An unprincipled person has no code of conduct which he lives by. He guides himself only by his own whims and desires. There is no limit to the depravity of a man who lives without principles. We can see this behavior in our world today. There are so many people who live and make daily decisions off of their feelings at the time. Our feeling can and will betray us. We need Bible principles established in our life to keep us grounded with healthy boundaries for living. The first set of principles that we are going to look at today are principles for life itself. Let’s observe the following:

1. **LIFE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US BY GOD, YET IT STILL DOES NOT BELONG TO US.**
2. **Notice that God breathed life into man in the beginning, and this gave us a living soul (Genesis 2:7; Psalm 139:13-16; Job 33:41; John 1:1-3; Jeremiah 1:4-5).** The Bible is very clear that God created man. We did not just evolve or pop up in an instant. We see in Jeremiah 1:4-5 that God had a specific plan for Jeremiah by creating him to be a prophet, and God cared enough to create a specific plan for each of us. We need to find out what God’s plan is for us and not decide for ourselves what we want to do. Our thinking about our lives will change if we remember that God gave us each a life and crafted each and every life for a unique purpose. We ought to treasure the life that God has given to each of us. If we live by the principle that our lives were given to us by God, we will think before we make flippant decisions that may cause us to miss God’s will for our lives. We will also be better inclined to take good care of ourselves. If life is a gift from God, are we good stewards of that gift if we engage in reckless or harmful practices that might shorten our days on this earth (Prov. 10:27)?
3. **Notice that Christ purchased new life for us on the cross of Calvary; thus, this life does not belong to us (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Luke 14:26; John 3:16; Acts 15:26; 20:24;).** This principle gives us an exception when it comes to the care for this life. Paul did not count his life dear unto himself, and other men hazarded their lives for the cause of Christ. There is a problem with the world’s philosophy that tells people their lives are their own. Sadly, this philosophy has even crept into our churches. Christians think that their lives belong to them and not to God. The same God who put the stars in their proper place also sent His Son to die on the cross and give us a better life. The first life God gave us has been corrupted by our sins. The second life that we have in Christ is an eternal one! It is clear that mankind is very special to God, as He did not send His Son to die for any other part of His creation. A Christian who leaves the will of God to pursue his own plans will never have peace in his heart. There will always be a conflict taking place because he has taken control of something that no longer belongs to him. Our lives have been purchased by the shed blood of Jesus Christ! It does not belong to us.
4. **OUR LIVES ARE LIMITED, SO WE SHOULD MAKE THE MOST OF EACH DAY.**

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1. **Notice that life is but a vapor. Mankind has an appointment with death (Hebrews 9:27; James 4:13-17; Psalm 39:4-5).** We all have birth dates – a specific time when our lives on this planet began. If Jesus tarries His coming, then every one of us will also have a death date that indicates exactly when this life ends. Most restaurants offer unlimited refills; however, when a restaurant does not give free refills, we tend to sip the drink a bit more slowly. We might not even be as inclined to share the drink with our spouse or our children. Why is that? We do not want to run out of the drink. Likewise, as we live by the realization of our limited lifespan, it ought to cause us to take a more deliberate approach to the life that we have been given. Simply enough, our lives here on earth are limited. The Lord picked the day that we would be born, and the Lord has a date for us to die. God is the One who ought to set that appointment. We look around to see people whose hair is grayer than ours and who might have aged a bit more than we have. We assume that their appointment is nearer than ours, but that might be a faulty assumption. Every day is a day that God has given to us as an opportunity to do His will.
2. **Notice that we are to focus our lives on today and seek to do what we can for Christ in the time that remains (Matthew 6:34; 25:13; Psalm 90:10-14; Colossians 3:23; 1 Peter 3:10).** Life is a number of days stacked one upon another until our death appointment that God has set. Many of us know it to be true that the older we get, the faster life seems to go. As the Bible says, life is even a vapour. It is here, and then it is gone. Somebody who lives to be seventy years of age has lived more than twenty-five thousand days. Think about that! That is twenty-five thousand times that we will open our eyes and begin a new day. What are you doing with each of those days? We should constantly ask ourselves, “What did I do today that was productive for the Lord? What did I do today that was productive for my family?” We need to make our days count. We ought to live to the fullest in each stage of life that comes along. A young person ought to live each one of his days out, as he will not be young for long. Parents ought to live each day to the fullest because that child will be gone from the home faster than they think.
3. **WHAT WE DO IN THIS LIFE WILL AFFECT THE NEXT.**
4. **Notice that our eternity is based solely on a decision that must be made in this life (Luke 16:23-25; John 5:21-25; Hebrews 9:27-28; Revelation 20:12-15; 2 Peter 3:10-13).** For those who reject Jesus Christ, their time on this earth is the best that they will ever have. Their last days on earth will be followed by an eternity of pain, suffering, and anguish that no one can fully comprehend. Those who realized their need for a Saviour and trusted Christ for salvation need not fear Hell because they made a decision that affected the next life. It is amazing to think that a decision that is made in this short life will dictate what becomes of our eternal state. We counsel young people to consider their decisions that they make at a young age because those decisions will have a profound effect on what the rest of their life looks like. It's sad to see young people make poor choices in terms of relationships and general life direction because we know the path it is sending them down. How much more incredible is it to think about the impact of the salvation decision. That one decision will literally determine our eternal existence!
5. **Notice that we will be judged and rewarded based on what we do in this life (Matthew 6:19-20; 12:36-37; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12-15).** This is true of both the believer and the unbeliever. Thankfully, the judgment for the believer will not consist of eternal damnation, but we certainly will be judged for what we did for Christ during this lifetime. When we lay up treasure on earth, we will leave it all behind; however, living for the next life affects eternity. After Paul’s conversion, he did not have as many days available to him to serve the Lord as others did. He had wasted his younger years in the hypocrisy of Pharisaical living. Yet, he chose to make the most of those days. This is why he was able to get to the end of his life and say with peace that he had finished his course. We need to make the most of each and every day because what we do in this life affects the rewards that we will receive in the next life. Do not waste the time that you have been given. Your daily decisions are of eternal significance. There is a great cloud of witnesses watching!
6. **WE OUGHT TO USE OUR LIVES TO INFLUENCE THE LIVES OF OTHERS.**
7. **Notice that the key to Christian living is to love and live for others as we live for Christ (Jude 22; Matthew 5:16; 10:8; 25:40-45; Mark 10:45; Luke 3:10-11; Galatians 5:13).** We get a glimpse of God’s wisdom and His love by His giving us the local church. It is a place to live our days, serve together, and affect the lives of others by spreading the Gospel. Since every life is so important, the church must reach and salvage every person that we can. Sunday school teachers can live their lives helping boys and girls fulfill God’s purpose for them. The bus driver can live his life by brining all those wanting to come to church. Parents have an opportunity from God to rear those children for Him. God wants our lives to touch the lives of others, and then hopefully those others will go and touch the lives of even more people. Remember that God has put you in whatever place you are in for the purpose of reaching others. Maybe God has even laid somebody on your heart for the purpose of touching their lives. What will you do?
8. **Notice that nobody lives to themselves in this life (Romans 14:7).** There was a famous preacher who loved to share his salvation testimony with others. He would often recount how he was led to the Lord by his childhood Sunday School teacher. It is documented in this preacher’s ministry that over three million people were saved. How did this happen? It happened because a Sunday School teacher understood that he did not live to himself. It happened because a young boy learned that he did not live to himself. How many people have influenced us in our lifetime? We have a great opportunity to do the same for others. If you have one day left or twenty thousand days left, you can determine to use that time to reach others. We ought to live our lives as if God circled a date on the calendar and told us it would be our last. We should live our lives based on the principles found in the Word of God. He did not give each of us a life for us to live for ourselves or make a great deal of money. Live for others!