"THE LEADING CAUSE OF LIFE"

(as compared to the leading cause of death) Ralph Arnold, Pastor

TEXT: James 4:13-17

I. Life is uncertain

- a. Scripture always refers to the brevity of life.
- b. One step between me and death. Psa. 39:4-5
- c. Makes one think of eternity Ecc. 3:11
- d. We do not know what tomorrow may bring forth.

II. Life is dependent (vs 15) on God's sustaining power.

- a. Due to his overall purpose in general
- b. Due to his purpose in you personally
- c. Due to your choices to obey or disobey

III. Life is accountable

- a. Your choices have not been predetermined, but the results of your choices have.
 - I. Study the Word to make the best choices.
 - II. Study the Word to know results of your choices beforehand.
 - III. Predestination is an act of God (what He purposes to do).
 - IV. Foreknowledge is an attribute of God (what He knows before it happens).
 - V. God given opportunities comes in giving us choices to make.
- b. Your choices are known by the foreknowledge of God, but God did not make you choose the way you did.

IV. Life is choices (Look at some of the following verse to understand consequences to your decisions).

- a. In salvation: 11 Thess. 2:13-14, 11 Peter 3:9, John 3:16
- b. In service: Rom. 8:28, Eph. 2:10
- c. In consideration: 1 Chron. 28:9-10, Matt. 11:20-23

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"THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE"

(A Christmas Message) Ralph Arnold, **Pastor**

TEXT: Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah looked down through the telescope of time, and saw 700 years into the future. He saw three wonderful things about the Lord.

- 1. Story of Luke 23:39-43 The man in the middle
- 2. The "HOLY MAN" Isaiah 9:6, Luke 1:35
 - **A. Isaiah saw the** Crib "unto us a child is born"

Where God was, man could not reach.

God undressed Himself, and put on a robe of flesh. He was the greatest Gift ever wrapped. He was so divine, He always remained the perfect God. He was so human, he got tired, hungry, thirsty, lonely, wept, and prayed.

B. Isaiah saw the Cross "unto us a Son is given"

He was not a curse **to** anyone, but became a curse **for** everyone. Christ did not destroy or break the law, but man broke it on Him. He stood before God with all our sins on Him, that we could stand before God with all His righteousness on us.

C. Isaiah saw the Crown "and the government shall be upon his shoulders"

3. My "Old Man"

A. My flesh birth Rom. 9:8
B. My fleshly burden (cross) Matt. 11:28-30
C. My fleshly crown (corruptible) 1 Cor. 9:25

4. My "New Man"

A. My Spiritual Birth John 1:12
B. My Spiritual Cross Luke 14:27
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"The Miniature Bible John 3:16" Ralph Arnold, Pastor

Out of 31,373 verses in the Bible, John 3:16 is the most known and Introduction: memorized. It is answer Christ gave to Nicodemus on how to be born again.

1. The Greatest message in the world

a.	"God"	is the Author of Salvation
b.	"so loved the world"	is the Affection of Salvation
c.	"that He gave"	is the Agony of Salvation
d.	"His only begotten Son"	is the Advocate of Salvation
e.	"that whosoever"	is the Availability of Salvation
f.	"believeth in Him"	is the Acceptance of Salvation
g.	"should not perish"	is the Alternative of Salvation
ĥ.	"but have everlasting life"	is the Abiding Salvation

2. The Seven Wonders of the World

a.	"God"	is the ultimate Authority
b.	"so loved the world"	is the <i>mightiest</i> Motive
c.	"that He gave His only begotten Son"	is the <i>greatest</i> Gift
d.	"that whosoever"	is the widest Welcome
e.	"believeth in Him"	is the <i>easiest</i> Escape
f.	"should not perish"	is the <i>deepest</i> Deliverance
g.	"but have everlasting life"	is the <i>priceless</i> Possession

3. The Greatest Extremes Known to God

- a. The Richest possible MERCY of God loving "the world" is shown at the
- b. Highest possible PRICE the gift of "His only begotten Son" for
- c. The Largest possible NUMBER "that whosoever" you, me, anybody else might not suffer
- d. The Darkest possible DOOM "perish" but have
- The Greatest possible BLESSING "Eternal Life" on
- "whosoever believeth" The Easiest possible TERMS

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