

### THE DIFFERENT LIVES MEN LEAD—Why Some Are Successful and Others Fail—A Life of Sin and Worldly Indulgence is a Dire Failure—The Life Worth Living.

TEXT: "What is your life?"—James iv., 14.  
If we leave to the evolutionists to guess where we came from and to the theologians to prophesy where we are going to, we still have left for consideration the important fact that we are here. There may be some doubt about where the river rises and some about where the river empties, but there can be no doubt the fact that we are sitting on it. So I am not surprised that everybody asks the question, "Is life worth living?"

Solomon, in his unhappy moments, says it is not. "Vanity, vexation of spirit," "no good," are his estimate. The fact is that Solomon was at one time a polygamist and that soiled his disposition. One wife makes a man happy; more than one makes him wretched. But Solomon was converted from polygamy to monogamy, and the last words he ever wrote, as far as we can read them, were the words "mountains of spices." But Jeremiah says life is worth living. In a book supposed to be of Jewish origin and probably a sepulchral and entitled "Lamentations," he plainly intimates that the blessings of merely living is so great and grand a blessing that though a man have piled on him all misfortunes and disasters he has no right to complain. The ancient prophet cries out in exulting intonation to all lands and to all centuries: "Wherefore doth a living man complain?"

A diversity of opinion in our time as well as in olden time. Here is a young man of light hair and blue eyes and sound digestion and generous salary and happily affianced and on the way to become a partner in a commercial firm of which he is an important clerk. Ask him whether life is worth living. He will laugh in your face and say: "Yes, yes, yes!" Here is a man who has come to the forties. He is at the top of the hill of life. Every step has been a stumble and a bruise. The people he trusted have turned out deserters, and the money he has honestly made he has been cheated out of. His nerves are out of tune. He has poor appetite, and the food he does eat does not assimilate. Forty miles climbing up the hill of life have been to him like climbing the Matterhorn, and there are forty miles yet to go down, and descent is always more dangerous than ascent. Ask him whether life is worth living. He has been so sore in shivering and indubious and appalling negative, "No, no, no!"

How are we to decide this matter righteously and intelligently? You will find the same man vacillating, oscillating in his opinion from dejection to exuberance, and if he be very mercurial in his temperament it will depend much on which way the wind blows. If the wind blows from the northwest and you ask him he will say, "Yes," and if it blow from the northeast and you ask him he will say, "No." How are we, then, to get the question righteously answered? Suppose we call all nations together in a great convention on eastern or western hemisphere, and let all those who are in the affirmative say, "Yes," and all those who are in the negative say, "No." While there would be hundreds of thousands of those who would answer in the affirmative, there would be more millions who would answer in the negative, and because of the greater number who have sorrow and misfortune and trouble the ones would have it. The answer I shall give will be different from either, and yet it will commend itself to all in a negative way. "No, no, no!" If you ask me, "Is life worth living?" It answers, "All depends upon the kind of life you live."

In the first place, I remark that a life of mere money getting is always a failure, because you will never get as much as you want. The poorest people in this country are the millionaires. There is not a scissor-grinder on the island of New York or Brooklyn who is so anxious to make money as these men who have piled up fortunes year after year in storehouses, in Government securities, in tenement houses, in land city blocks. You ought to see them jump when they hear the fire bell ring. You ought to see them in their excitement and in the excitement of their money. Their agitation when they are proposed a reformation in the tariff. Their nerves tremble like harp strings, but no music in the vibration. They read the reports from Wall street in the morning with a concern that threatens paralysis or apoplexy, or more probably they have a telegraph or telephone in their own houses, so they catch every breath of change in the money market. The disease of acquisitiveness has eaten into them—eaten into their hearts, into their lungs, into their spleen, into their liver, into their bones.

Chemists have sometimes analyzed the human body, and they say it is so much agnesia, so much lime, so much chlorate of potassium. If some Christian chemist would analyze one of these financial leeches, he would find he is made up of copper and gold and silver and zinc and lead and coal and iron. That is not a life worth living. There are too many earth-works in it, too many agonies in it, too many perditions in it. They build their mansions, and they open their picture galleries, and they summon prima donnas, and they offer every inducement for happiness to the men there, but happiness will not come. They send footmen and positioned equipage to bring her. She will not ride to their door. They send physicians to her. They will not take their names. They make their gateways triumphal arches. She will not ride under them. They set a golden throne before a golden bed, and they turn away from the banquet. They call her from her upholstered balcony. She will not listen. They mark you, this is the failure of those who have had large accumulations.

And then you must take into consideration that the vast majority of those who make the dominant idea of life money getting fall far short of affluence. It is estimated that only about two out of a hundred business men have anything worthy the name of success. A man who spends his life with one dominant idea of financial accumulation spends a life not worth living.

So the idea of worldly approval. If that dominant in a man's life he is miserable. Every four years the two most unfortunate men in our country are the two men nominated for the Presidency. The reservoirs of abuse and diatribe and malediction gradually fill up, gallon above gallon, hoghead above hoghead, and about midnight these two reservoirs will be brimming with a hose will be attached to each, and it will play away on these two men, and they will have to stand it and take the abuse and the falsehood, and the caricature and the anathema, and the railing and the filth, and they will be rolled in it and rolled over and over in it until they are choked and submerged and strangled, and at every sign of remnant consciousness they will be barked by all the hounds of political parties from ocean to ocean. And yet there are a hundred men to-day struggling for that privilege, and there are thousands of men who are helping them in the struggle. Now, that is not a life worth living. You get slaughtered and abused cheaper than you can get a smaller scale. Do not be so ambitious to have a whole reservoir piled over on you.

But what you see in the matter of high political preferment you see in every community in the struggle for what is called social position. Tens of thousands of people trying to get into that realm, and they are under terrible tension. What is social position? It is a difficult thing to define, and I don't know that it is. Good morals and intelligence are not necessary, but wealth, or a show of wealth, is absolutely

indispensable. There are men to-day as notorious for their socialism as the night is famous for its darkness, who maintain what is called high social position. There are hundreds of out and out rakes in America whose names are mentioned among the distinguished guests at the great levees. They have annexed all the known vices and are longing for other worlds of diabolism to conquer. Good morals are not necessary in many of the exalted circles of society.

Neither is intelligence necessary. You find in that realm men who would not know an adverb from an adjective if they met it a hundred times in a day, and who could not write a letter of acceptance or regrets without the aid of a secretary. They buy their libraries by the square yard, and they are anxious to have the binding Russian. Their ignorance is positively sublime, making English grammar almost disreputable. And yet the finest parlors open before them. Good morals and intelligence are not necessary. But wealth or a show of wealth is positively indispensable. It does not make any difference how you got your wealth, if you only got it. The best way for you to get into social position is for you to buy a large amount on credit, then put your property in your wife's name, have a few preferred creditors, and then make an assignment. Then disappear from the community until the breeze is over and come back and start in the same business. Do you not see how beautifully that will put out all the people who are in competition with you and trying to make an honest living? How quickly it will get you into high social position? What is the use of toiling forty or fifty years when you can be three or four times as wealthy in three or four months? Ah, my friends, when you get your money how quickly they will let you drop, and the higher you get the harder you will drop.

There are thousands to-day in that realm who are anxious to keep in it. There are thousands in that realm who are nervous for fear they will fall out of it, and there are changes going on every year, and every one and every hour which invite heart-breaking that are never reported. High social life is constantly in a flutter about the delicate question as to whom they shall let in and whom they shall push out, and the battle is going on—per mirror against per mirror, chandelier against chandelier, wine cellar against wine cellar, wardrobe against wardrobe, equipage against equipage. Uncertainty and insecurity, high social life is constantly in a flutter about a premium and a life not worth living!

A life of sin, a life of pride, a life of indulgence, a life of worldliness, a life devoted to the world, the flesh and the devil, is a failure, a dead failure, an infinite failure. I care not how many presents you send to my dear old mother, if you do not right under the name on the tombstone this inscription: "Better for that man if he had never been born."

But I shall show you a life that is worth living. A young man says: "I am here, I am not responsible for my ancestry. I decided that I am not responsible for my ten per cent. God gave me that. But here I am in the evening of the nineteenth century, at twenty years of age, I am here, and I must take an account of stock. Here I have a body, which is a divinely constructed engine. I must put it to the very best uses, and I must allow nothing to damage this rarest of machinery. Two feet, and they mean locomotion. Two eyes, and they mean capacity to pick out my own way. Two ears, and they are telephones of communication with all the outside world, and they mean capacity to catch the sweetest music and the voices of friendship—the very best music. A tongue, with almost infinity of articulation. Yes, hands with which to welcome or resist or lift or smile or wave or bless—hands to be used for the benefit of all.

"Here is a world which after 6000 years of battling with tempest and accident is still grander than any architect, human or angelic, could have drafted. I have two lumps to light me—a golden lamp and a silver lamp—a golden lamp set on the sapphire mantle of the day, a silver lamp set on the jet mantle of the night. Yes, I am immortal. The American-Humanity crop is stated to be 17,000,000 quarters. If true, it adds greatly to the gravity of the situation. "The American crop is reckoned by careful judges to be 68,500,000 quarters, or 11,000,000 quarters improvement, to offset a decline of 3,000,000 quarters in Russia and 6,000,000 quarters in France. "All the figures point to a deficiency in the world's supply of 14,000,000 quarters. Should the demand be actually as large as this, the stores of old wheat will be used up, and a crisis of great seriousness will only be prevented by generally good prospects for the spring of 1898. "We are not, however, entitled to argue that such prospects will be more than the average."

#### STUDENTS' AWFUL CRUELTY.

A Horrible Hazing Episode at the University of California. There will be no more "rushes" at the University of California if President Kellogg's latest mandate is exercised. Half dazed, his jaw broken, his face a bloody mess, Benjamin Kurtz, a newly elected freshman, was found lying about the campus after the rush between the two lower classes. In the struggle some one put his heel on Kurtz's face, and as a result he is disfigured for life and may have sustained injury to the brain. An examination showed that a piece of flesh had been torn from one nostril. The upper lip was lacerated by a steel and the rpgged nature of the scar made the injury all the more serious. The front teeth were gone. Four teeth had been knocked out of the lower jawbone, in which they had been embedded, and part of the bone was broken out with them.

Both the upper and lower jaws were smashed and the flesh of all the face crushed and bleeding. There were two other serious casualties.

#### HER SPECIALTY IS TWINS.

A Colored Wife, Under Eighteen, Has Given Birth to Four Pairs. Not yet eighteen years old and the mother of four pairs of twins. This is the record made by Pearly Bradford, a colored woman of East St. Louis, Ill. The remarkable young mother asked Dr. Woods, Supervisor of the Poor, for food to keep herself and children from starving. She has been a resident of East St. Louis five years, she says, having come there from New Orleans, where her husband is now trying to get employment. All but three of her children are dead. The live ones are healthy and strong, though quite young.

Mrs. Bradford is very black. She will not be eighteen years old, she says, until November 25 next, and is again approaching motherhood. She was married when a child.

Dr. Woods made a careful investigation into the statements made by Mrs. Bradford and found them to be correct and the woman honest and truthful.

#### Not Young, But They Married.

Isaac Selover, seventy-four years old, a widower and a wealthy farmer of Spottwood, N. J., and Miss Mary Phillips, a spinster, sixty years old, have just been married. Selover lived with his son, a boy of twenty years, but it is said that he and his son did not agree. So he thought he would get married again, and Miss Phillips agreed to become his wife. His children were opposed to the marriage, but Selover insisted that he knew his own business.

#### Mutineers Kill Fifty-Nine Men.

A mutiny has occurred among the troops of the Congo Free State in the Congo District of Africa. The mutineers, it is said, killed fifty-nine Belgian officers and men and destroyed all the forts, committing deprecations right and left.

### CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPICS.

TOPIC FOR SUNDAY, SEPT. 19.

"Losing One's Life and Finding It." John xii 1-8, 26-27.

DAILY READINGS. LOSING AND FINDING LIFE. Matt. xxvii, 11-26.

Sept. 14. Like Jerod. Mark vi, 14-29. Sept. 15. Like Felix. Acts xxiv, 22-27. Sept. 16. Finding—Like Paul. Acts xx, 17-25. Sept. 17. Like Stephen. Acts vi, 8-15; vii, 54-60. Sept. 18. Like John the Baptist. Matt. xiv, 1-12. Sept. 19. Losing one's life and finding it. John xii, 1-8, 26-27. Scripture Verses.—Ps. cxlix, 4. Prov. xviii, 12; xxiii, 4; Matt. v, 5; xviii, 3, 4; xxiii, 12; Luke i, 48, 52; xviii, 14; Phil. ii, 9-11; Jas. iv, 10; I Peter v, 6.

LESSON THOUGHTS. We can have only one life—a selfish, sinful, worldly life, which is ours by nature; or a "life hid with Christ in God." We can have both, but we may begin the latter at once by the death of the former. In the business world transactions are sometimes made with actual loss to the merchant. In the hope of a resulting future gain which will more than balance the loss. The eternal gain of heaven may be purchased by the sacrifice of the short pleasures that the world may offer.

SELECTIONS. Many Christians at the present time could truly say to God, "Some of self and some of thee, and that is the reason why their lives are so joyless and so powerless. But when a Christian has reached the stage where he can say to his Lord, "None of self, but all of thee," then it is that his soul will be flooded with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory, and a divine power will be made manifest in his life to all those that come into contact with him. It is not hard to see, as other lives are studied, that blessedness entered them in proportion to the fullness of the surrender. Just as the sunlight floods a room according to the number of the windows that are ready to receive it. Our Saviour hath told you, the seed that would grow. Into earth's dark bosom must fall—Must pass from the view and die away, And then will the fruit appear: The grain that seems lost in the earth below. Will return many fold in the ear. By death comes life, by loss comes gain. The joy for the tear, the peace for the pain! No pain suffered, nor service rendered, nor work done for Christ, is lost. . . The poorer we become for him, the richer we shall grow. The more we forget ourselves, the more will he remember us.

#### Labor World.

It is estimated that \$40,000 a month will soon be paid to the raisin packers of Fresno, Cal.

American railroads are employing one hundred thousand more men than they were in 1896.

The striking coal miners doubt whether the sixty-five cents a ton rate will be accepted by the men.

A syndicate has been formed in Tientsin, China, for erecting a large cotton manufactory in that place.

The Trades Union Congress, in Birmingham, England, pledged moral and financial aid to the striking engineers, and favored an eight-hour day.

The engineering strike in England may drive manufacturers to the Continent.

Many New England cotton and woolen mills which have been idle for a long time past, have started up, owing to the improved conditions of trade.

In New York on Labor Day there were no processions, no speeches, no demonstration to show the public the growing strength of labor organizations.

The Amoskeag Mills, Manchester, N. H., started full time after a shut-down of one month. Eight thousand operatives returned to work. All the big mills in the city are now running.

Unintegrated delegates who favor accepting the operators' terms to end the coal miners' strike were selected in the Pittsburgh district to attend the National convention at Columbus, Ohio.

William F. Cochran formally presented a fully equipped six-story club house to the workmen of Yonkers, N. Y.

The Falls Company, of Norwich, Conn., manufacturers of cotton goods, started on full time in all departments, giving employment to 500 hands. The plant shut down August 14 for the annual repairs, but prior to the shut-down the concern had been operated short-handed.

Labor Day was celebrated in Louisville, Ky., by a parade of 6000 men. Business was largely suspended. The parade ended at Phoenix Hill Park, where a picnic was given during the afternoon and evening. Speeches were made during the evening by local leaders. The feature of the parade was the assignment of a section of the unemployed at the end of the Fourth Division. Strange to say, there was not one in this division.

The best burglar-proof safes are made of alternate layers of hard and soft metal, which are welded together. This combination will not yield to either drill or sledge-hammer.

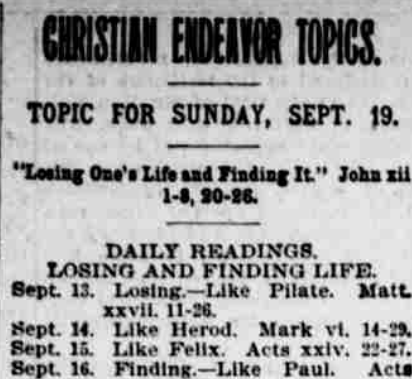
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Large advertisement for Ripans Chocolate Coated Ripans Tabules, describing them as a medicine disguised as confectionery and providing contact information for The Ripans Chemical Company in New York.