

THE MEANING OF LIFE

By

Gerald N Wright

*If Jesus Christ is **true**, then everything else in life is Insignificant. If Jesus Christ is **false**, then everything else in life is Irrelevant (GNW).*

Dear reader, if you've been searching for the "meaning of life," you have arrived at your destination. For the entire meaning of life is summed up in the words in the quote above. Now these words may sound overly simplistic, but they are profoundly accurate when it comes to the essential meaning of our lives. For you can travel around the world – examine every "great" person's claims and achievements, explore every human religion and philosophy, exhaust every library, explain every scientific fact, experience every worldly pleasure and pursuit – and you'll still end up at the same inescapable conclusion: that apart from Jesus Christ, no other human person, philosophy, pursuit or passion has anything significant to offer when it comes to the "meaning of life."

Thus the significance of a True or False Jesus is that a **True Jesus** makes everything else in life "Insignificant," and a **False Jesus** makes everything else in life "Irrelevant." Let's explore these two premises further.

***If Jesus Christ is True
Then everything else in life is
Insignificant***

Now though it is true that Christ is our life (Colossians 3:4), and because of such every normal or mundane thing in our lives becomes Significant in our service to him; it is also true that the spiritual and eternal things that Christ offers us are so majestically and metaphysically superlative that everything else in our lives becomes, comparatively, Insignificant (Ephesians 1:3). Let's look at a few of the marvelous things the True Christ infuses into the "Meaning of our Lives."

First, if Jesus Christ is true, then all he said about himself in the Holy Scriptures (that he is our God, Creator and Savior) is also true. Thus if Jesus is true, we know *WHEN* we came into existence: from his "Creation in the Beginning" (Genesis 2:26-27).

Second, if Jesus Christ is true, we know *WHO* we are (his physical children) and *WHY* we're here on the earth—to be recreated to be his spiritual children (John 3:3-5; II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10).

Third, if Jesus Christ is true, we know *WHERE* we who believe in him are going when we die: to be with him forever in heaven (II Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 1:21-23).

Now, my friend, in light of these wonderfully true and logical conclusions, what else in our physical lives — good or bad — can compare with the glory he has prepared for us?

First, all of our personal sacrifices for Christ's sake — the loss of any fun, fame or fortune — are Insignificant compared to the heavenly rewards Christ has in store for us. **Second**, all the temporary suffering for Christ's sake on earth is Insignificant compared to the eternal bliss he has prepared for us in heaven. **Third**, all the temporal physical pleasures we might enjoy without Christ in our lives are Insignificant compared to the glorious joy of being in heaven with him, or the misery of being in hell without him (Romans 8:18-25; II Corinthians 4:16 – 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23; Hebrews 11:25-26). *WITH THE TRUE CHRIST EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS COMPARATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT!*

***If Jesus Christ is False
Then everything else in life is
Irrelevant***

Now contrary to our divinely inherited greatness and the grand expectations that await us if Jesus Christ is True, if Christ was a fraud our faith, hope, past, present and future are all stripped of any real meaning. We may as well get our hopelessly humdrum lives over with in a hurry, for we're nothing more than meaningless moving masses of protoplasm headed nowhere. Or as the Apostle Paul said: *"If the dead are not raised, Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die"* (I Corinthians 15:32).

Indeed, this is true. For if the dead in Christ are not going to be raised – because Jesus and his resurrection are false – then what difference does it make if we live righteously or wickedly, we're all going to die and reap the same unrewarded and/or unpunished nonexistence? What difference does it make if our lives are physically blessed or cursed for a moment in time, we're all going to end up with nothing? What difference does it make if we believe or disbelieve in anything religious, such will not affect our appointment with annihilation. Without the True Christ and his hope of glory (Colossians 1:27), why does anything in life really matter? *WITHOUT THE TRUE CHRIST, EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS IRRELEVANT!*

Conclusion

Friend, without our proof and purchase of eternal life in the crucified, resurrected and Living Christ, we are indeed nothing. Our lives are indeed nothing (John 15:5)! Our lives are either meaningful in the True Christ or meaningless in a False Christ. If we live as though Christ never died, we will die as though Christ never lived. Our lives are either worth the world to God or nothing to us. Our lives are either a victorious spiritual march with Christ to eternal glory or a vain and lonely descent to nowhere (I Corinthians 15:57f). Anything not worth dying for is not worth living for. Christ is either at the end of our best lives, or our lives end with the worst death. Thank God that Christ is True, and that He is our life, now and forever (I John 1:1-4; 3:1-3; 5:13, 20f)!

Amen

**PRESENTED BY:
"The churches of Christ"
(Romans 1:16)**