THE GOOD LIFE

**2––DEADLY SHORTCUTS**

**John 10:10 (NKJV)** “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

**ONE OF THE MOST COMMON WAYS THE ENEMY STEALS AND DESTROYS IS BY LEADING US TO BELIEVE THAT WE KNOW THE WAYS OF LIFE**

**Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)** There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

**EVEN JESUS DID NOT CHOOSE HIS OWN WAY… HE SAID IN…**

**Psalm 16:11 [AND it’s also quoted in Acts 2:28] (NKJV)** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**THAT’S LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY, BUT NOTICE … HE RELIED ON GOD TO SHOW HIM**

**THIS IS WHY WE SEE IN LUKE 5:16…**

**(NKJV)** … He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

**JESUS DIDN’T EVEN CHOOSE THE WORDS HE WOULD SPEAK**

**John 8:26 (NKJV)** “I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.”

**ANOTHER PRIMARY WAY THE THIEF STEALS THE GOOD LIFE IS BY PROMISING TO GIVE IT TO US THE EASY WAY**

**Matthew 4:8–10 (NKJV)** Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” **10** Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

**Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

**Philippians 2:8–11 (NKJV)** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**GOD TEACHES US THE TRUE WAYS TO HAVE ABUNDANT LIFE … AND IT’S NOT THROUGH TAKING, BUT RATHER BY GIVING**

**Luke 6:38 (NKJV)** “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

**THE FRIENDLIEST PEOPLE GENERALLY HAVE THE MOST FRIENDS**

**Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)** A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

**JESUS ALSO TAUGHT US THAT THE WAY TO GREATNESS IS THROUGH SERVING**

**Matthew 20:26 (GW)** But that’s not the way it’s going to be among you. Whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant.

**ANOTHER WAY THE THIEF STEALS THE GOOD LIFE IS BY TEMPTING US TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON COMFORT AND PLEASURE INSTEAD OF GOD’S CALLING ON OUR LIVES**

**BUT THE BIBLE TEACHES US THAT YOU CAN NEVER ATTAIN THE GOOD LIFE GOD HAS FOR YOU BY PURSUING PLEASURES**

**Ecclesiastes 5:10 (GW)** Whoever loves money will never be satisfied with money. Whoever loves wealth will never be satisfied with more income. Even this is pointless.

**Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)** … “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

**AND JUST PRACTICALLY, LOVING PLEASURE DOES NOT EVEN LEAD TO WEALTH**

**Proverbs 21:17 (GW)** Whoever loves pleasure will become poor. Whoever loves wine and expensive food will not become rich.

**WHAT DOES GOD TEACH US? HE TEACHES US TO TURN OUR ATTENTION TO HIM AND HIS KINGDOM, AND THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR OUR PERSONAL LIVES**

**Matthew 6:32–33 (NKJV)** “… your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”