Jesus,

what do you mean?

***“I came that they might have life,and have it abundantly.”***

Or, “You call this a life?”

John 10:10

The Words:

With New Year’s Day around the corner, it’s good to ask what this Jesus saying might mean. Life, eternal life, abundant life, God’s life, life from above, any and all of those terms bring hope and brightness into the darkest of situations. We know that Adam was told that he would die “on the day” he ate the fruit. But Jesus has come to bring the New Birth to all who would believe in His shed blood for the forgiveness of their sins. These are amazing words!

The Challenge:

While we want to believe Jesus’ words, how shall we under-stand them? We know that Jesus predicts persecutions to those who follow Him, and that life’s unfairness is not cancelled by the New Birth. In fact, many who don’t follow Jesus, or even believe in God, seem to do better in this life than His disciples. So how do we make sense of these words? Do we have to die to experience abundant life?

The Principle: You aren’t living if you aren’t Christ’s.

The Picture: All “saviors and solutions” are not equal: Jesus alone is Shepherd.

John 10:1-6 Jesus contrasts Himself with those who lead people for their own ends, manipulators and destroyers of life. Ezekiel 34:1-15

The Interpretation: Jesus alone can and does give abundant life.

John 10:7-10b Jesus alone gives true security. As “The Gate” Jesus sustains us with His life.

John 10:10c-18 Jesus alone gives true satisfaction. As “The Good Shepherd,” Jesus enriches us by His death.

The Application: Are you open to God’s life. . .

1. ***In your relationships?***

Is Jesus the determiner of my relationships? Is He before all other relationships? Am I seeking in another human being the love and satisfaction only He can provide? Am I angry, unforgiving? Mark 12:28-34

1. ***In your circumstances?***

Am I learning contentment in my work, school, or home? Am I convinced that Jesus can and will take care of me? Am I preoccupied with what might have been? Am I living in the now? Philippians 4:10-13

1. ***In your possessions?***

Am I content with what I have? Is my life marked by competition or fantasy over things I don’t have? Am I plagued with fear of loss? Am I gen-erous, a faithful steward of God’s gifts? 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

1. ***In your self?***

Am I happy with who I am, or do I compare myself with others? Am I convinced I can contribute to the cause of Christ? John 21:21, 22