

3. 1 Peter: the Abundant Life

Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. Psalm 23.6

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2.24

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10.10

Every culture has its own concept of “the _____ life.” Most of the world knows America’s definition of the good life, we call it “The American Dream.” Its origins go back to 18th century America, and was tied to the colonial frontier ever expanding westward.

The idea of an “American Dream” has been entrenched in American culture for over three hundred years, now, and has evolved through the centuries, but always had this idea of having the freedom to _____ oneself.

With all the uncertainty we are facing in America and the world today, Jesus continues to offer us a different dream, a dream built, not on false hopes, but on _____: *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10.10*

Psalm 23 is often read at funerals to comfort the bereaved, but, in fact, Psalm 23 summarizes _____ in the Kingdom of God, the abundant life Jesus came to give. And how does Jesus give us abundant life?

[Jesus] Himself bore our sins in His body on the Cross, so that we are free from sins, forgiven.

_____? Peter tells us why. To live for the American Dream? No, rather *that...I might live for righteousness*. Forgiveness has the power to set me free *that...I might live for righteousness*.

Jesus, through His own death on the Cross, has become the _____ through which all people, regardless of skin color, gender, ethnic origin, or cultural status can repent, enter the Kingdom and know the abundant life Jesus offers which is outlined for us in Psalm 23. There are no barriers to life in the Kingdom of God.

Take time this week to read Psalm 23, not as a Psalm that comforts us when we mourn, but as a Psalm that _____ abundant life in Christ. May the Spirit open the eyes of our hearts that we may know the abundant life Jesus came to give.