

**RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD. THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS.**

TEXT: Matt 6:24-34

(from New International Version)

THEME:

Having a relationship with God: in particular according to the first three commandments.

Grace, peace and mercy, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Life: the cycle of life goes on with all its intricacies, with all its dramas and at all its levels of sacredness at this very moment while I speak. I say sacredness because it is up to each and every individual person of how much they identify and view the value of their lives to be: or what they think theirs and other lives are worth.

What is your life like at the moment? I'd like you to think about that for a second! How intricate or complex is it? How much drama is there happening in it? How sacred is your life worth to you: is it worthwhile or is it worthless because of the way you are feeling at the moment?

I'd like you to reflect on what has been preached to you over the past five months [if that is possible]: if you can recall the series of Discipleship/Fellowship; you may remember that there has been a similar theme running through all of them.

You'd find that a strong emphasis has been placed on the word *relationships*. This theme Pastor Tim and I feel, is the common denominator that binds Christians together. The whole idea is to share our lives together in unity, peace and harmony, just as the Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit live in harmony with each other. From God all blessings flow and from whom we all receive life and

reason to live; he is the sole reason for a purpose in our lives.

I want you to compare your life against others in the world. The big news over the past few weeks has come from the Asiatic region of Burma and China. Where there has been a massive loss of life in both countries. My heart and I'm sure that yours would as well, goes out to them, because how terrible it must be [in some cases], to lose all your families members in an instance; the feeling of loss must be enormous!

So what about Australia and the region we live in at the moment? Apart from the drought, we don't face many challenges where we see loss of life on such a large scale such as these. There are no wars or killings of a large scale on our streets, and we also have the freedom to do what we want, wherever and whenever we want to. We are blessed and fairly safe in our country; which is not to say that we don't have our fair share of troubles though.

Something that has made newspaper headlines all over our nation for some time now: has been about the youth of this nation and 'binge drinking' and consuming 'alcopop'.

DEFINITION: "A culture of binge drinking is prevalent among many communities, for example at high schools, universities, at parties, and in sporting clubs. In a minority of social circles, binge drinking may begin at as young as 13 and 14, and may be very widely practiced and accepted by some by age 16 or 17. The legal age for purchasing alcohol in Australia is 18".

The danger with this of course is the effect it has on the body in later years, and I believe that some people have even died imputing shots of alcohol into their body systems too quick. These people are young, their bodies are strong [some believe invincible] and life is at its best, it's a good time to be alive, especially before they grow

any older into adulthood to settle down and enjoy all the challenges that this brings.

I'm not against having a good time [killjoy], but I'm sure we all would agree that moderation in all things is the way to go. 'I don't care which ever way you look at it'; Dr Phil says; 'a pancake has two sides'. The point I want to make is that for every cause there is an effect. And sometimes the effects and problems that will occur later on in people's lives can be so devastating, that some people now wish that they had never done what they did when they were young.

Hindsight is a lovely thing if you can avoid the dangers. But for those who have gone through these things, we can't undo the things that are now long gone. The warning to young people is 'be very careful'. I must confess that when I was young I thought I would live life fast. Enjoy it to the fullest [please myself] and then when I was on my death-bed; call in a priest for forgiveness of

sins and the way I lived my life. Then give my heart to the Lord; be given the last rites and then pass on peacefully into God's presence and be in heaven with all the saints forever [WRONG]. Fantasy, lives and occurs in the head, it even refers to a drug that affect the brain, praise God that reality took over.

God in his wisdom put a stop to that stupid thinking many years ago when I was a teenage adolescent. And even at times there is a struggle, living his way is better than what I had planned for myself. I believe that I would not be here to share my life and stories with you if I sought to please myself. Praise God for having mercy upon my soul.

And I'm still learning to be what God wants me to be. And just like me; YOU are the only one who can keep YOU from becoming the person God wants YOU to be. He has personal plans for all of us and he wants you to live a life that's abundant and full in his way, but if we

think that we can cut him out of our lives and still have a good time, then we're kidding ourselves. There will come a time when we will all stand before him, and if we have rejected him in this life, then we will be rejected from living in his kingdom in the next life [that is one definition of heaven and hell].

God is faithful and he loves you for who you are; compared to how the world loves you. Have you ever wondered why and what are on peoples agendas for bringing you into their world, anyway? Why they really want a relationship with you for? Relationships are important yeah, if made for all the right reasons and done in the right way. Living outside of God in the natural world can be a dog eat dog world.

The best resources God has given to all his believers are other believers. They help you keep on track. The only problem with that though, is that when people come to church they can wear a mask, wanting to appear strong

and having it all together, so they rob themselves of the opportunity of having their needs met by other Christians who can meet their particular needs. By denying other believers the privilege of meeting our needs, we are acting independently of God, and we become vulnerable by having our needs met by the world, the flesh and Satan. We can't serve every one; we can only serve one master, as our lesson warns us today.

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. A lot of people try it, but satisfaction won't come until one is made master over the other. And if people persist with trying to do both then they bring on a lot of strife and unnecessary pain upon themselves. Their lives and worlds that they've built for themselves can start falling apart because there would be too many commitments to make in satisfying diferent needs. Only God can satisfy all our needs, he is our all in all.

Worry and anxiety leads to sick bodies, souls and minds. The brains get wracked and the body cannot hold itself together. The Bible tells us, “Why worry, why be anxious, each day has enough worries to take care of itself”. The best thing we can do with worry and anxiety is to put it all into God’s hands, he has already got the solution worked about even before we start thinking about how we should go about solving problems that we have brought upon ourselves unnecessarily. God’s primary resources for meeting your needs and keeping you pure are other believers. Do not go where angels fear to tread!

Verse 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. We all know what happens when we are living in a right relationship with God, [a lot of good things happen] but the biggest thing you have is a peace that passes all understanding. You may even think that your life is

boring; because there is nothing that can mess you life up unless you deliberately walk away from all his goodness that he is bestowing upon you.

Your life and quality of life is so special because God makes it special. You are also blessed with what he gives and promise you; which sometimes mean that they continue on from this life and into the next. How blessed are you to live a life, knowing that come what may, and all that the flesh, the world and Satan can throw at you; are all covered over in the life you live in Christ. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.