

IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST...I LIVE!

Life Connecting Teams ~ March 2025
New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 NIV

OBJECTIVE: To reflect upon the great gift of the sacrificial death of Jesus, which gave us abundant and eternal life.

INTRODUCTION: In understanding the importance of Jesus' sacrifice, we realize that it was an act designed for our redemption. When we reflect on the profound love behind His choice, we acknowledge that His sacrifice serves as the ultimate example of selflessness and commitment. Jesus knew the challenges we would face, and out of love, He accepted our burdens, enabling us to live in freedom. His sacrifice was not just an event; it was a demonstration of God's boundless love and mercy for humanity. It reminds us that we are cherished beyond measure and that we have the opportunity for a new life and relationship with our Creator.

LESSON: We want to begin the lesson with the words of a beautiful song that speaks to our hearts of the magnificent exchange that was accomplished for mankind in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please read the words aloud together and take a moment to pray and consider their meaning.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh. Fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied. For every sin on Him was laid. **Here in the death of Christ I live.**

1 John 4:9-10 NIV "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world **that we might live through Him.** This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

The concept of redemption is central to our understanding of Jesus' sacrifice. Through His blood, we aren't just saved from sin; we're redefined as beloved children of God. This **transformation** means that no matter what our past holds, we have a fresh start and a promising future. The act of Jesus giving His life, signifies the utmost act of love that sets us free from the chains of guilt and shame. Our identity shifts from being lost to being completely redeemed, reminding us that God's grace is abundant and freely given as a new life in Christ.

Transformation (definition): change in form, appearance, nature, or character. (Dictionary.com)

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new".

The Victory of His Sacrifice: Through His sacrifice, Jesus achieved a monumental victory over sin and death. This victory is not just a historic event; it is an ongoing reality that we can participate in every day. We are reminded that we are not defined by our struggles or failures but by the triumph that Jesus secured for us. We, too, can emerge victorious in our daily battles, knowing that we are supported by a Savior who has already won the war.

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. "

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How will You Respond to His Gift of Life

Galatians 2:20 NIV "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Once we embrace the impact of Jesus' sacrifice in our lives, it calls us to respond. We aren't called to passively accept this gift; **we are invited to live out our gratitude.** Responding to Jesus' sacrifice means embodying His love, grace, and mercy in our daily activities. We find abundant opportunities to share kindness, forgiveness, and hope with others, demonstrating to the world the transformation that His sacrifice has brought about within us. It is in these acts of love that we honor Him and spread His light.

Living in response to Jesus' love encourages us to serve others, build relationships, and spread kindness around us. Christ died on the cross to eliminate our sins, but He rose from the grave to give us abundant life that can only be found in Him.

The **abundant life** Jesus promised in John 10:10 encompasses fullness of life both in this life and for eternity. This life overflows with joy, purpose, and spiritual fruitfulness, guided by God's presence and provision. The abundant life Jesus promised begins now for believers who trust in Him as they abide in Him. Ultimately, the abundant life offers a profound sense of fulfillment and completeness found exclusively in knowing and following Jesus Christ.

Applications for Today

In what areas of your life do you feel you're experiencing the "abundant life" Jesus promised? Where do you feel it's lacking?

How has your understanding of "abundant life" changed over time, and how does it align with what Jesus describes in John 10:10?

What practical steps can you take this week to more fully embrace and live out the abundant life Jesus offers?

Remember in Prayer

- Bishop Grannum, Pastors Bob Oliver, Omar Barlow, Andrew Grannum, Wangui Mwangi and their families.
- Ministers, Deacons and Ministry leaders
- Our children and youth for protection and growth in their personal faith
- More participation in our prayer ministries
- Generosity of giving toward the Capital Campaign
- Prioritize reaching out, caring for others and sharing the gospel

Resource: <https://biblestudyforyou.com/bible-verses-about-jesus-sacrifice/> ;
<https://www.compellingtruth.org/abundant-life.html> ;<https://www.compellingtruth.org/abundant-life.html#implicationsfortoday>