

Live for the Lord Jesus

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, January 24, 2021)

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

This is Rev. Luís' favorite verse...

It teaches us that we should truly be living for the Lord, not ourselves...

It can be hard to give up our own agenda, but at the same time, it helps us to be free of the pressure to perform on our own...

1. We don't have to worry about being strong on our own...

The only real strength we will have will be gained by leaning on the Lord Jesus...

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to [b]buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. **8** Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. **9** And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

***Our victory is in serving the Lord Jesus...

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. **51** Behold, I tell you a

[m]ystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. **54** So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O[n] Death, where *is* your sting?

O Hades, where *is* your victory?”

56 The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. **57** But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

This life should be about doing the work of the Lord...

2 Corinthians 2:14

14 Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us [a]diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

***So what is the work of the Lord?

How do we do the work of the Lord?

A) Part of the work of the Lord is letting Him use us to bring the knowledge of Him to others...

That is through sharing the Word of God and our personal testimonies, as well as by giving the best example we know how, especially regarding Christian love...

Revelation 12:10-11

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. **11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

B) In *Revelation 12*, we again see that our lives, including our personal priorities, must be secondary to serving the Lord Jesus...

Such a selfless becomes less and less frustrating when you realize that oftentimes you will not be able to do all of the things that you would like to do...

C) Christian love; holy, pure, disinterested love; is essential to develop if we are to live for Christ.

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Remember that hatred blinds us...

1 John 2:9-11

9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. **10** He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. **11** But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

To be able to see spiritually, we have to repent of any hatred that has crept into our hearts...Love has to be without hypocrisy...It can't be fake...

Romans 12:9-13

9 Let love *be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. **10** Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; **11** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12** rejoicing in hope, patient[c] in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; **13** distributing to the needs of the saints, given[d] to hospitality.

Part of true love is helping others with material blessings or our time as the Holy Spirit leads and as we are able...

1 John 3:16-18

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

An important part of laying down our lives for others is by putting them first...

Mark 6:33-37

33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you [f]disputed among yourselves on the road?" **34** But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who *would be the* greatest. **35** And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." **36** Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, **37** "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

Christian love is tender...

Everyone is important, including the most vulnerable in our society, such as children and the elderly and the poor...

James 2:1-9

2 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. **2** For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in [a]fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in [b]filthy clothes, **3** and you [c]pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," **4** have you not [d]shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? **7** Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

8 If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; **9** but if you [e]show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

Even animals should be treated with tenderness...

Proverbs 12:10

10 A righteous *man* regards the life of his animal,
But the tender mercies of the wicked *are* cruel.

D) As we walk with the Lord Jesus day to day, He will give us opportunities to show love by giving them time and performing acts of service for them; He will give us opportunities to talk to others about Him; He will give us opportunities to pray for and perhaps even with others...

Walking with the Lord Jesus is truly an adventure...

Some of us would prefer not to have the instability of adventure...

But adventure, as well as selflessness, is a big part of living for Christ...

We don't really know our entire role in God's tapestry, but Holy Spirit reveals it to us little by little...

Matthew 10:16-20

16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless[f] as doves. **17** But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. **18** You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. **19** But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; **20** for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

John 16:5-15

5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' **6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. **7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. **8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **9** of sin, because they do not believe in Me; **10** of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; **11** of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. **13** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. **15** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He [c]will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

E) My last point regarding living for Christ can't be emphasized enough: We should always make ourselves the best temples possible for the Holy Spirit...

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! **16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." **17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. **19** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body [g]and in your spirit, which are God's.

Ephesians 4:25-32

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*" for we are members of one another. **26** "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **27** nor give [g]place to the devil. **28** Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. **29** Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary [h]edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, [i]clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.