

# What Is Your Life - Part 5

by Leonard Ravenhill

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of living a life hid in Christ and seeking things above, rather than being dead to sin and loving the world's junk.*

**Duration:** 9:44

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:1

**Topics:** "New Birth", "Spiritual Transformation"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of the new birth in Christ, highlighting the contrast between being dead in sin and being dead to sin. It challenges believers to seek a life that reflects their new identity in Christ, focusing on heavenly things rather than worldly distractions. The speaker uses vivid illustrations and contrasts to underscore the profound change that occurs when Christ lives within a person, urging a genuine and visible transformation in lifestyle and priorities.

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## Transcript

Took a thousand mile journey, my daughter's having a baby, my daughter's having a baby, so what? Didn't make all that fuss when I was born, at least I don't remember it, but anyhow. But oh, when the baby came, you should have heard what they were saying about it. It had everything except wings.

It had a halo, but it got broken when they handed the baby over to the nurse. And this fellow said to me, hmm, isn't a birth a wonderful thing? It sure is. It sure is.

I'm not asking you tonight, did you one night kneel down and make confession, and after that your life was no change, your lifestyle was no different, your appetite was no different, your pair life was no different, come on. Supposing we change the language. Paul says, Christ in you.

If I were to start here tonight and go around the front row and everyone and say to everyone, you stand up brother, and when you stood up I say, does Christ live in you? What would you say? Would you say, oh yes, he lives in me. He rules my life. He controls me.

He pulls me back when I would go too quickly. He urges me on when I would hesitate. The miracle of the new birth.

You see, the insulting thing about the Bible is that while you may have a colossal intellect, and you may invent so many things, and you may write great books. Oh, for some reason right here, I think of Lord

Byron. He was a contemporary of John Wesley.

Byron broke all records for writing poetry and publishing books. The rich people of England would have a whole row of books in pure leather binding. Lord Byron wrote it.

Lord Byron. He went into the homes of all the kings in Europe. He went to the palaces.

People begged him to come and grace their home with his presence. He was an extremely handsome man. Had a pale complexion, jet black hair, even curls down to his shoulders.

And people swooned when he came in their presence. But he was dissipated. If I remember right, he died when he was 39 years of age.

He died shivering on the coast, by the waters, lapping his feet there in Greece. And he wrote this just before he died. My life is in the yellow leaf.

The flowers and fruits of love are gone. The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine. What a summary! Would you like? I was going down Orange Grove in London some years ago.

I was speaking at London Kettick. I saw this swell place and flunkies there and knee breeches, you know. And, uh, oh, they looked so nice.

Well, I'm glad I don't have to wear that. I've got such terrible legs. I've got thin, thin legs.

If I wore breeches like that, I'd be arrested for having no visible means of support. But here was this flunky standing at the door and he had his beautiful velvet coat and a cravat there and his hair. And I stepped back and he said, Good afternoon, sir.

I said, Good afternoon. Could I come in there for some? Oh, no, sir. No, sir.

No, you can't come in here to eat. Well, yes, you can if his Lordship, the Duke of Westminster, brings you or the Duke of Argyll or Lord Tomash. But you see, well, it was just before the Queen, our Queen, got married in England.

The Queen was here last Friday night and her sister was here, too. They stayed until 2.00. We close at 2.00 in the morning now. You know, like most church prayer meetings close at that time.

And, thank you, they You can't come in here. Why not? I'm clean. I'm upright.

I'm a preacher. I mean, I've never been to jail. But sir, you're not of royal birth.

You're not a distinctive aristocrat. You can't come in. Why would you like to come in? I said, I would like to see all the lords and ladies and Dukes in society with a sparkling diamond.

And I'd like to get my chair, turn it round and stand up and raise my voice and saying, She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. Oh, sir, he said, you get thrown out. I said, well, that's what I expected.

Isn't it offensive to say to people, listen, you may be a genius. You have a colossal intellect. If you fall out, you're dead.

You invent something, but you know right in the sense of you, you're dead. Because you've no living relationship with God. Now, there are two kinds of people in the world, only two kinds, not black and white, not rich and poor.

There are those who are dead in sin, and there are those who are dead to sin. If I say most people are half-saved, you know what I mean? I mean this, you go to the cross, but you never get on the cross. You go and get your sins forgiven and feel happy, and you go do the same lousy thing again the next day.

Come on, what kind of a salvation is that? I heard a famous preacher, and he's an Englishman. Terrible, he shouldn't have said that. And he said, you know, the Lord is merciful.

You come here tonight. He'll forgive your sins tonight, and he'll forgive your past sins, forgive your sins for today, and he'll forgive your sins for tomorrow. Isn't that nice? Can you imagine a man going up to a judge, and the judge says, you've been found guilty of stealing a lady's purse.

Did you steal it? Mm-hmm. Oh, you did steal it. Yeah.

It had a hundred dollars in it. Ever stole any other purse? Yes, I have a record. This is the 345th purse that I've stolen.

Are you sorry? Yes, I'm sorry. Well, he says, you're forgiven. I forgive you for all the purses you've stolen in the past, all that you've stolen today, and all you're going to steal for the rest of your life.

Wouldn't that be wonderfully saying, or insane? You see, the miracle of the new birth is this, that when a man is really born, when he gets this life, he doesn't want that life. Oh, I don't think anybody gives it better than Paul to wind this up, writing to the Colossians, he says, if ye then be risen with Christ, or as the literal translation is, if you've been raised with Christ, you seek those things which are above. You say to people, are you saved? They say, well, I don't really know.

Supposing you're carrying a hundred pound sack on your back, and you're struggling up a hill, and your knees are going down, and somebody whips the sack off your back, and you get to the top of the hill without the sack, and the man says, hey, have you lost your sack? You say, I don't really know. I kind of figured he'd know when somebody took a hundred pounds off his back. And by the same token, a man knows, because the miracle of the birth isn't some intellectual somersault.

Jesus says it is this, that we're dead in trespasses and in sin. And he brings us to life. So now we love the things we didn't like, and we hate the things we used to love.

Okay, so Paul says, if you're risen with Christ, or you've been raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, which were where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not things on the... come on, come on, come on, you fellas now. Okay, you're saved.

And yet, I guess you talk all about baseball, and you talk about Jesus. Is that right? Hmm? In the last week, you've been more interested in the return of Jedi, than you are in the return of Jesus. And you've talked to your buddies about it.

As far as I'm concerned, the little bits I've seen on TV, they show, you'd have to be crazy to go watch it. Set your affection on things which are above, not things on beneath, for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. Can you think of anything more wonderful than that? Here is your life.

It's hid in Christ, and it's hid in God. What are you going to do? Sneak out and drink a bit of the world's junk? Do you know how you need entertainment?

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