

What Are You Doing With Your Life?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

- **Intro: tone = positive (assume doing)**
 - **Lk. 12:15, 23** **life is more than** possessions, food, clothing
 - **yet God abundantly gives** us these things - **Lk. 12:31** “But **seek His kingdom**, and these things will be **added to you.**”
 - **life is more than feeding ourselves, clothing ourselves, and accumulating possessions**
- - **pic made me think of this lesson:** 1994 Pulitzer Prize winner, starving girl is Sudan, with Vulture waiting her to die
- **lesson:** What are you doing with your life?

- **Life is about obeying God – true, but. . . (next point)**
 - **Ec. 12:13b-14a** (obedience, judgment) “. . . **fear God** and **keep His commandments**, because this **applies to every person**. For God will **bring every act to judgment. . . .**”
- - **Heb. 5:9b** (obey Jesus) Jesus “became to all those who **obey Him** the **source of eternal salvation**”
- - **Jn. 4:24** (worship) “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must **worship in spirit and truth.**”
- - **Heb. 10:24b-25a** (church, assemble) “and let us consider how to **stimulate** one another to love and good deeds, **not forsaking our own assembling together**”
 - **L.S., pray, sing, teach and learn, giving \$**
- - **Eph. 6:4** (raise family) “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but **bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**”
- - **1 Tim. 5:8** (earning a living, provide for family) “But **if anyone does not provide for his own**, and especially for those of his household, he **has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.**”

- - **this may be all some people can do – subsistence living**
 - **usually not in USA**, affluent nation
 - **other places, people have to**
 - **work many more hours** - have less
 - **small fraction of our recreation**
 - **takes much more effort and time to worship** - not have speed of transportation and conveniences

- - **Lk. 12:48b** **God requires more . . . affluent Christians . . . time, \$, opportunity, ability**
 - **What are you doing with your life? – financial wealth? – expendable income? – wealth of free time?**

- **Can we serve God going to church, raising family, and working to earn living and be like. . . ?**
 - **Lk. 12:15-21** **parable rich man, greed**, wanted to **retire early** and enjoy his wealth **rather than be rich toward God** (work, earn, use wealth for God’s work)
- - **Matt. 6:19-20** Jesus, **store up treasure in heaven, not on earth**
- - **1 Tim. 6:9-10, 17-19** **how to store up in heaven, good works, generous, share**
 - **many affluent people have the same desire** as the rich – **application to Christians**

- - **Lk. 18:22-23, 24-25, 26-27** **parable, rich young ruler, chose to enjoy riches rather than be rich toward God**
- - **illus.: Lk. 16:23-25** **damnation, rich man not rich toward God**
 - **many affluent people have the same desire** as the rich – **application to Christians – judgment**

- - **????: As affluent Christians**, can we serve God going to church, raising family, and working to earn living, and be like these rich people who weren’t actively serving God with their riches (man who wanted to retire early, and the rich young ruler who wanted to enjoy riches rather than serve the poor)? - **not if we want to go to heaven**

- **What are YOU doing with you life as a Christian?** – rich toward God, serving God with weal th of time and \$
 - some people are “watchers” and some are “doers”
 - illus.: TV commercial **Bank of Scotland**, guy choking and there are several people at table talking about it but no one acting, guy from another table has to come over and save him – **he acted while everyone else watched and talked about it** – **Christians today?**
 - illus.: reality TV, someone takes video of violent act, recording someone getting beat up or in a tragic accident, doesn’t help but just watches while taping – **Christians today?**
 - **Ja. 2:14-17, 19-20 Christians** should be **doers** (living faith), **not just watchers** (dead faith like demons)
 - illus.: **widow contributed two coins (cent)** – she was a doer while other stood around watching
 - **greed, pride**
 - illus.: **good Samaritan** – he was a doer while the others just walked by and watched
 - **possible attitudes of Jews:** excuses offered themselves for just watching, not acting
 - **Samaritan’s attitude:** mercy, compassion
 - **What extra time and effort required by the Samaritan** - not much for a rich man – **like us**
- - ????: **What are you *doing* with your life?**
 - like the good Samaritan or the rich man who wanted to retire , not rich toward God
 - like the good Samaritan or the young ruler who wanted to keep riches for himself rather than sharing, not rich toward God
- **What makes the difference?**
 - **Rom. 12:1a self-sacrifice**
 - - illus. **Jesus: Rom. 15:1-2** sacrificed himself for the good of others
 - **Are we sacrificing ourselves for the good of others – like Jesus did for us?**
 - - illus. **brethren in Macedonia: 2 Cor. 8:1-5** gave far beyond what we would consider “reasonable”
 - **Are we giving like brethren in Macedonia?** – judgment, what will God think
- ????: **What are you doing with your life?** Are you different? Are you making a difference? Are you self-sacrificing for the good of others? Are you a watcher or a doer – have a dead or living faith?
 - - **pic:** by Kevin Carter, 1994 Pulitzer Prize winner, pic of starving girl, Sudan, 1993
 - **about the pic:**
 - **young girl had stopped to rest, struggling to make it to a feeding center**, seemingly well-fed **vulture** landed nearby, he said that he **waited about 20 minutes**, hoping that the **vulture would spread its wings** but it didn't, he **snapped the picture** and **chased the vulture away**
 - **received heavy criticism** for just photographing — and **not helping the little girl**
 - **cf. young girl at church:** Allison, Marissa, Katie
 - **shows us the need** in the world – **our congregation to Christians** - **individually toward individuals**
 - **excerpt from suicide note:** "I am haunted by the vivid memories of killings & corpses & anger & pain . . . of **starving or wounded children**, of trigger-happy madmen."
 - **if we’re just watchers** (dead faith), **one of two things must happen:**
 - **must become calloused and hard hearted** - not care, insensitive, not merciful or compassionate like Jesus or good Samaritan
 - **we must change to and become a doer** (living faith) like Jesus and good Samaritan

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- What are you doing with your life? – watcher or doer – living faith or dead faith - **inv.**