

STOLEN LIVES

25/1/15

We hear a lot about the “stolen generation”, kidnapped children, the slave trade, etc., but how many people are aware of the greatest theft of human life on the planet? The Word of God reveals spiritual crimes that secretly affect everyone without exception and promises to reveal and restore the losses.

JOH 10:10 The thief (Satan) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life (through the anointing of the Spirit), and that they might have it more abundantly (with added Godly blessing). Jesus reveals the true reason behind his time on earth. The real battle is not about individual crimes against humanity, but the universal battle for the souls, hearts and minds of every living person. He also reveals who is causing the trouble and how the problems can be overcome. Satan wants to remove you from the battle... to steal your time, efforts and abilities to build and reveal a true, spiritually based life.

Let's study three aspects of this battle (Time, Attitude and Purpose) and see what the bible has to offer.

1. TIME... Satan wants you to waste your time; this keeps you ineffective as a living soul. **EPH 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (that which lacks Godly purposes), but rather reprove them. **12** For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. **13** But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Consider a more literal translation... (**11** Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. **12** It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. **13** Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ.)

Jesus reveals how to make TIME work in our favour... **EPH 5:14** Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light (a clear understanding). **15** See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **16 Redeeming** (recovering) the time, because the days are evil (wasted and lost). **17** Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

2. ATTITUDE... Satan wants to keep your mind focused on non life issues. **2COR 4:3** But if our gospel (the purpose of Life) be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. **5** For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. The world promotes attitudes, which fail to reflect and even mock the values of real life and its benefits. Keep people busy thinking about natural cares and they will have no time left for spiritual truths.

Jesus suggests a different ATTITUDE if you want a far better life. **PHI 4:6** Be careful for nothing (focus on the real issues); but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God (this method works... all others fail). **7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. God reveals how to build an effective and successful attitude.

3. PURPOSE... Satan wants to keep you busy only serving natural needs and desires. **EPH 2:1** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; **2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: **3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath (failed lives), even as others. Satan keeps the world busy doing everything except building an eternal life platform.

Jesus reveals PURPOSES that add to and reveal true life. **MAT 6:19** Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal (don't invest your best time and efforts into something which will be taken from you): **20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Where your Time and Attitude is... there will your PURPOSES be revealed... and there will your PURPOSES be established.

LUK 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **We are called to return all stolen lives to their rightful owners.**