



CELL GUIDE

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| TOPIC | Jesus - The Life of the World | SPEAKER | Elder Leon Oei |
| THEME | Prepare for the Harvest | DATE | 30 and 31 Dec 2023 |

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In this final sermon of the year 2023, Elder Leon Oei talked about how we, as people, are able to experience two kinds of 'life'—*bios* and *zoe*. He explained the difference between the two and exhorted us to live life and not merely exist.

JESUS, THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

Life is usually defined as 'the capacity for growth, reproduction, functional activity, and continual change preceding death'.

The Bible uses two different Greek words for 'life' - *bios* and *zoe*. *Bios* refers to the life that is inherent in all living things, like plants and animals. It refers to the physical life that ends with death. In *bios*, happiness is temporal in nature.

On the other hand, *zoe* is primarily spiritual and can only be found in people who are plugged into the body of Christ. In *zoe*, joy is endless and life is eternal. *Zoe* can only be obtained and cultivated through Christ.

1. Getting Life (*zoe*)

God created us with both *bios* and *zoe*, but *zoe* was lost when man sinned. Jesus tells us in John 3:6-7 that we need to be born again to recover *zoe*.

To be born again, one must:

- a. **A**dmit to God that they're a sinner, and repent
- b. **B**elieve that Jesus is the Son of God
- c. **C**onfess their faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord

2. Growing Life (*zoe*)

Both *bios* and *zoe* can be sustained through air, water, food, shelter and sunlight. While *bios* can be sustained by these resources in a literal sense, God describes in the Bible how He is all of these spiritually:

- the breath of life (air) in Genesis 2:7
- the living water (water) in John 4:14
- the living bread (food) in John 6:51
- the shelter of the most high (shelter) in Psalm 91
- the light of the world (sunlight) in John 8:12.

God is our Jehovah Jireh, our provider for every need. Jesus can satisfy both our physical and spiritual hunger. He says in John 6:57-58 that whoever feeds on Him will live (*zoe*) on because of Him. Whoever feeds on this bread will live (*zoe*) forever. He urges us to:

- take communion (remember the Lord), and
- partake the word (read the Word)

Elder Leon encouraged us to take the opportunity to follow a daily bible reading plan in the new year. People new to the faith can start small (e.g. a devotional a day) before progressing to more complex material. Considering that it is 'better to snack than to starve', we should skim through prescribed readings instead of skip them. Most importantly, reading the Word is not just about the act of reading, but also living out the truths described in the text. We can pray to God for support to help us carry out His will. By reading the Bible and praying, we will grow our *zoe*.

3. Guarding Life

Although all followers of Christ can be assured of their salvation, our lives will still be evaluated in heaven (1 Corinthians 3:14-15). People who guard their *zoe* will be rewarded more handsomely.

Therefore, we should strive to do good works; be kinder, look after the less privileged, uphold laws, revive friendships etc. People with a flourishing *zoe* can make a positive difference in society, especially as the world grows ever dimmer. We should strive to grow the church invisible and make more disciples of Christ, so our society can become a better place to live in.

CONCLUSION

People who do not have *zoe* life should be born again to get it. By reading the Bible and praying daily, we will grow our *zoe life*. Believers who have *zoe* life should guard it by living it out in their everyday actions.

QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, explain the meaning of life from its greek words '*bios*' and '*zoe*' and how you have personally experienced the *zoe* life.

2. God provides our every need and Jesus can satisfy both our physical and spiritual hunger. How has God been your Jehovah Jireh and sustained your *zoe* life in the past year?

3. What are some actions you can take to grow and guard your *zoe* life in the new year?