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**MAN'S LIFE**  
**By Duane V. Maxey**

It is interesting that the number 6 in the Scripture seems quite clearly to be the number of Man, and that there are 6 places in the KJV Bible where we find the words: "man's life". Following, are some thoughts from these 6 verses.

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(1) MAN'S LIFE AND "THE DAILY GRIND"

Deuteronomy 24:6 "No man shall take the nether or the upper millstone to pledge: for he taketh a MAN'S LIFE to pledge. The NIV renders this: Deu. 24:6 "Do not take a pair of millstones -- not even the upper one -- as security for a debt, because that would be taking a man's livelihood as security."

After the Fall, God ordained that Man live by DAILY TOIL: -- Gen 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground." In this Divine pronouncement was both an obvious Curse and a hidden Blessing. That "an idle mind" is "the devil's workshop" is true not only by the devilry conceived and perpetrated against others by idlers, but "an idle mind" is also "the devil's workshop" by the negative affects it has upon idlers themselves. One of many ills often produced by idleness is obsessive worry and self-concern. Regular employment is very therapeutic for one's mind and the panacea for any number of mentally originated ills.

The verse in Deuteronomy above says, in so many words, that "a man's life" is closely connected with "the daily grind," if you please. Six days of labor each week is good for body, mind, and spirit. And, beyond that, it is commanded: 2 Thessalonians 3:10 "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

The Curse of our society is the same as that of Sodom: Ezekiel 16:49 "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and ABUNDANCE OF IDLENESS was in her and in her daughters..."

Luke 17:28 "As it was in the days of Lot" = "As it was in the days of Sodom." We are seeing the prophetic fulfillment of Ezekiel 16:49 right now -- today!

Yes, the rest of Luke 17:28 tells us that in the days of Lot, "they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded" -- things associated with busy activity -- and yet JUST BEFORE ITS DESTRUCTION SODOM HAD A LOT OF IDLE TIME ON ITS HANDS -- TIME THAT WAS USED TO INDULGE FLESHLY APPETITES in both excessive and perverted ways.

For some years, in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, a man met with us who was the biggest idler I ever met in my life. He was unmarried, on social security, lived alone, and would spend virtually every week day (and probably a lot of time on Sundays as well) doing nothing more than walking and gawking all around town. This he did, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year -- doing absolutely nothing productive, but just walking and gawking all over town!

How any man with any intelligence or sense of self-worth could spend his life doing nothing -- and enjoying it -- is more than I can understand! No one took away "his millstones" of productive living -- he had laid them aside of his own accord, content to do nothing and be nothing but a walker and gawker. His last name was "Crockett," and he claimed to be related to the famous "Davey Crockett" from Tennessee. He loved "gravy" and loved to stay after meeting to eat with us. I called him "Gravy Crockett". Perhaps the hardest work he did during all the time he was around us was talking us and others into loaning him a few dollars until his next check came in. I venture to say that when "Gravy Crockett" goes to his grave (if he has not done so already), the elements of his decomposing corpse may contribute more good to the world than did his entire life on earth!

I know not which epitaph would be worse:

(a) "HERE LIES AN IDOLATOR, Who Worshipped Gold and Worked Himself to Death!  
or

(b) "HERE LIES AN IDLER, Who Walked and Gawked until he Dropped!

He who spends life as an idler is every bit as much a thief as the last man who robbed a bank, for he has taken from both God and Man without rendering anything productive in return: Eph 4:28 "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

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(2) MAN'S LIFE -- AND "THE TREE"

Deuteronomy 20:19 "When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an ax against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for THE TREE of the field IS MAN'S LIFE) to employ them in the siege."

Interestingly, by the First Adam, death passed upon all men through "a tree": Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Then, Life Eternal was again made available through "a tree": Galatians 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." 1 Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

Revelation 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

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### (3) MAN'S LIFE AND AND "ITS THREATS"

Proverbs 13:8 reads: "The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke." There is quite a different view of the meaning of this verse presented in the NIV: Prov 13:8 A man's riches may ransom his life, but A POOR MAN HEARS NO THREAT."

Many things can "threaten" a man's life, and one of those threats is that which comes from those who will kill him to take what he has. The meaning and message of Proverbs 13:8 seems to be this: "If you are rich, you may be able to save your life by forfeiting your riches to those robbing you, but IF YOU ARE POOR YOU WILL NOT BE THREATENED. Of course, this does not always hold true, but probably most of the time it is so. The more a man has in this world, the more threat there is to his life, by those who will kill him, if necessary, to get what he has!

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### (4) MAN'S LIFE AND "SACRIFICE FOR THE GUILTY"

Jonah 1:14 Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, LET US NOT PERISH FOR THIS MAN'S LIFE, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.

Who is there that wants to die for a mass murderer? Who wants to take Timothy McVeigh's place in the death-chamber in May? Paul wrote in Romans 5:7-8 "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Most men will not die in behalf of a righteous or a good man, to say nothing of dying for some heinous criminal. It is most likely that there is not a man on earth who would step up and say, "Your Honor, let me die in Timothy McVeigh's place, so that he can go free." But 2

Corinthians 5:15 tells us that Christ "died for ALL," and that includes Timothy McVeigh and all of the worst of the worst among men.

Though completely innocent and guiltless, Jesus became our Jonah, and was cast into the tumultuous Sea of God's Wrath for us! When this occurred Christ experienced what is expressed in Psalms 42:7: "all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me," and in Psalms 88:7: "Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves."

Long after his water baptism by John the Baptist, Jesus said: "I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!" (Luke 12:50) -- and apparently this baptism which was then yet to come was His baptism into the Sea of God's Wrath for a lost and guilty world -- a baptism, not of water, but of Fire! The billows and waves that engulfed him were those of the Lake of Fire where He suffered their searing pains -- the Innocent One for a Guilty World!

Then, "as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so [was] the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40), and finally, as Jonah was resurrected "out of the belly of hell" (Jonah 2:2), even so, Jesus was resurrected "out of the belly of hell," having suffered the pangs of the damned, "the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Pet. 3:18).

There appears to be much more symbolism in Jonah's Mediterranean experience than many have perceived -- all typifying the Supreme Sacrifice of "THIS MAN'S (JESUS') LIFE," who so willingly said, as it were, to the Father, "Cast me forth into the Sea of your wrath that its angry billows may be pacified and guilty mankind may find peace with God" (See Jonah 1:12).

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#### (5) MAN'S LIFE AND THAT OF WHICH IT CONSISTS

Luke 12:15 "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a MAN'S LIFE CONSISTETH NOT IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THE THINGS WHICH HE POSSESSETH.

When Jesus said in John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," He was obviously not referring to an abundance of things. A man's life can be abundant and yet be quite void of things, so it does not consist of things.

Furthermore, in Luke 12:23, Jesus said, "The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment." So, a man's life consists neither of an abundance of material things, nor even of what we term "the necessities," for a man can be bereft of even earthly necessities and still have the abundant "Life" of which Jesus often spake.

Finally, the real essence of man's life cannot even be found in his physical body -- his flesh, his bones, his blood, and the beating of his heart, for Jesus said in Luke 17:33, "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it."

Hebrews 10:34 speaks of "a better and an enduring substance," and it is of such that man's life consists -- a substance that is spiritual and eternal. Jesus statement in John 10:10 could truthfully be read, "I am come that they might have 'a better and more enduring substance,' spiritual life, and that they might have it more abundantly. Those who have spiritual life now have that "better and more enduring substance," and when the rise to meet Jesus in the air they shall inherit it "more abundantly," for then it will be unimpeded by things pertaining to earthly life and thus it will continue forever!

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## (6) MAN'S LIFE AND "THE SHIP" THAT IS LOST

Acts 27:22 "And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for THERE SHALL BE NO LOSS OF ANY MAN'S LIFE among you, but of THE SHIP."

In God's sight, things have a relative value. Jesus said, "How much then is a man better than a sheep?" (Matt. 12:12) If a man is more valuable than "a sheep" -- something that God created -- then he is also more valuable than "a ship" -- something that man created.

There have been many man-made "vessels" that God has used to help get people to Heaven's Shore. We might liken denominations to such vessels -- being ships which, like Noah's Ark, that were planned and ordained of God, though made by men, and yet -- expendable after having served their purpose.

Divinely saved souls are going to land safely on Heaven's Shore, but not one of the denominational "ships" will ever survive the transition from time into eternity. There will be no Baptist Ship anchored in the eternal "Haven of Rest" -- no Methodist Ship, no Presbyterian Ship, no Quaker Ship, no Nazarene Ship, No Wesleyan/Holiness Ship -- no ship flying any denominational flag. God is not interested in preserving such in eternity, and all of these man-made vessels, no matter how useful they may have been, shall be forever broken at the bar where the two seas of Time and Eternity meet!

How much more valuable is a man's life than the "ship" that helped land him safely on Heaven's Shore. The former shall shine throughout the ceaseless ages of Eternity while shouting the praises of Christ; the latter shall sink in the waves of Time and be forever "forgotten in the City" among "the former things" that "are passed away" (Eccl. 8:10; Rev. 21:4).

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THE END