

Living Abundantly

John 10:9-10

Introduction:

- A. Jesus came not just to give us life, but to give it abundantly.
 - 1. “**PERISSOS** — exceeding some number or measure or rank or need
 - a) over and above, more than is necessary, superadded” (Thayer).
 - 2. Not just saved, but opportunity to “go in and out and find pasture” (v. 9).
- B. Living Abundantly involves two factors:

Discussion:

I. The Abundance of God’s Love, Mercy and Grace (1 Pet. 1:3)

- A. Demonstrated by the abundance of Christ’s sacrifices for us.
 - 1. Became poor for us. (2 Cor. 8:9).
 - 2. Emptied himself for us (Phil 2:5-8 ASV).
 - 3. Died for us. (Rom. 5:8).
 - a. While we were still sinners (vv. 6-7).
 - b. Abounding grace overcomes abounding sin (vv. 12-21)
 - c. Purchased the church with blood. (Acts 20:28)
- B. Demonstrated by the abundance of Christ’s gifts to us (Eph. 4:8).
 - 1. Supplied us with the means of growth and edification. (Eph. 4:11-16).
 - 2. Surrounded us with a supporting spiritual family. (Cf. Mark 10:30).
 - 3. Showered us with “every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (Eph. 1:3).
 - a. Grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16).
 - b. Holy Spirit to help with our prayers. (Rom. 8:26-27).
 - c. Help in time of temptation. (1 Cor. 10:13).

II. The Abundance of Our Response to His Love, Mercy and Grace.

- A. Abounding, rather than just enough to get by, is appropriate response.
 - 1. “Always *abounding* in the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58)
 - 2. “But as you *abound* in everything ... (2 Cor. 8:7)
 - 3. “For if these things are yours and *abound* (2 Pet. 1:8) — abundant entrance (v. 11).
- B. Abounding, rather than just enough to get by, is often difference in success and failure.
 - 1. It is true of all kinds of endeavors: Business; Marriages; Education; Churches
 - 2. It is a matter of attitude and approach.
 - a. Doing what is compelled versus the extra mile. (Cf. Matt. 5:41).
 - b. Doing “just enough to get by” versus a little extra for good measure.
 - c. Doing “what is expected” versus “more than expected.”
- C. Abounding reflects a higher level of service.
 - 1. One usually does just what he “has to” from fear and constraint.
 - 2. One usually does more that he “has to” because he “wants to” from love.

Conclusion:

- A. We want God’s grace to abound and an abundant entrance into heaven! What about our service?
- B. Does your life, as a Christian, reflect a desire to abound or just get by?
- C. Does our life, as a church, reflect our desire to abound or just get by?
 - 1. Our night attendance? Gospel meeting attendance?
 - 2. Our evangelist efforts? Edification efforts?