

Finding the Abundant Life: **Part 1**

WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM

The "Christian" Life

1. What does it mean to be a "Christian?"
 - Modernity? (WWJD?)
 - **The Abandoner** – The excitement of the initial experience fades and the Christian drifts away either completely or mostly.
 - **The Chameleon** – constantly following the new fads and waves within the Christian subculture.
 - **The Mercurial** – falls into a pattern of huge ups and downs and begins to believe this is normal.
 - **The Actor** – knows at the core there are huge issues of doubt but learns to cover them up, living largely unchanged on the inside, with a few alterations to his speech and actions on the outside.

The "Christian" Life

1. What does it mean to be a "Christian?"
 - Historically?
 - The hallmark of Christianity is the presence of Life – **John 6:35, 40**
 - **John 10:10** – "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly."
 - Is Jesus truthful in this statement?
 - It's an historical fact that He came.
 - There is a group of "they" who follow Him.
 - Where then is this abundancy?
 - **Matthew 16:15** – "But who do you say that I am?"

More than Lemmings



2. What is going wrong?
 - Was Jesus a great moral teacher?
 - WWJD?
 - It's far more than an intellectual exercise.
 - We will not find abundant life by intellectually comprehending and accepting the historical facts about Jesus
 - Nor by grasping and knowing the theological implications of His death and resurrection.
 - Nor by adhering to the moral and ethical standards that Jesus taught!

An Encounter with a Person

3. The abundant life begins with an encounter with the Living Jesus of Reality.
 - **Matthew 11:28** – "Come to Me"
 - **John 8:12** – "I am the light of the world."
 - Thomas Aquinas – his life mission was to reconcile the Christian faith with human reason.
 - *Summa Theologica (Summary Treatise of Theology)* – was never finished!
 - While writing the third and final part on Christ, he had a profound and emotionally shattering spiritual experience.
 - "I have seen that which makes all I have written and taught look small to me. My writing days are over."

Wretched Man That I Am

Have you really seen yourself through His eyes?

- **Romans 7:24** – "wretched man that I am"
 - Paul sees himself for who a Holy God seems him: wretched to the core! (**Isaiah 64:6**)
 - Nothing good in him. Nothing!
 - Totally depraved. (Methodists, Arminianists, and Calvinists)
 - every person born into the world is enslaved to the service of self (sin) and, apart from the movement of God, is utterly unable to choose to follow Him or choose to accept salvation as it is freely offered.
 - "Man that I am"
 - *Not acts that I do or moments that I have!*

Wretched Man That I Am

- Too many “Christians” have merely aligned themselves with the teaches of Christianity – they have not come to the place where they see their wretchedness, worthlessness and utter bankruptcy in the presence of a Holy God!
 - Compared to... I’m not so bad ([Matthew 5:3](#))
 - We will not find the abundant life Jesus brings until we align ourselves with the Truth of His revelation!
 - [John 20:29,30](#) – “My Lord and my God!”
 - Don’t pray for the “experience,” rather, pray for His presence and the experience will come!