

## The Life that is Really Life

An instruction the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in a letter gives us a window into what having Christ who is our life is and what it is not:

“Instruct the rich in the present age not to be high-minded, nor to have hope in *the* uncertainty of riches, but on God, the *One* richly providing us all things for enjoyment; to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous in distributing, ready to share, treasuring up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is indeed life.” (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

The word translated as “life” in 1 Timothy 6:19, Colossians 3:4, and the other verses quoted in this book is *zōé*, see <https://biblehub.com/greek/2222.htm>. The Greek language has another word “*bios*” for physical life <https://biblehub.com/greek/979.htm>, and yet another word “*psuche*” for the life of the soul <https://biblehub.com/greek/5590.htm>.

Before the New Testament writers borrowed *zoe* to represent the life we receive from Jesus Christ it was used by Greek writers to represent what was thought to be the highest and most pure form of life that could be achieved.

When I reviewed the use of *zoe* by the New Testament writers a theme that is consistent with Paul’s instruction to Timothy emerges.

Our natural human thought is that the highest life for humans would be to be filled with all of the riches and pleasures the world could offer. But God’s thought is that the highest and most pure form of life, or the life that is really life, *zoe*, is offered freely by God when one believes in God and Jesus Christ whom He sent, and that life is not self-centered and selfish, but rather centered on God and others. Hopefully knowing this will make you more appreciative of the life offered by God in Christ Jesus and more willing to reject the alternative life that isn’t really life, our old sinful and self centered life.