

A The source of LIFE:

❖ "I am... the life."

- Jesus has a characteristic that distinguishes him from all created beings: he has life in himself (John 5:26). Thanks to this quality, he was able to give up his life and take it up again (John 10:17-18).
- What motivated Jesus to come to Earth to give his life?
 - (1) Revealing the Father to us (John 14:8-9). We had forgotten what God is like
 - (2) Give us abundant life (John 10:10). In Jesus we can truly enjoy life here and now.
 - (3) Taking our place (Is. 53:5). He suffered the punishment that we should suffer.
 - (4) Dying to give us salvation (Acts 4:12). Only in Jesus can we obtain salvation
 - (5) Take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Not only does it erase our sin, but it will finally remove it.
 - (6) Resurrect us on the "last day" (John 5:28-29; 6:54). When Jesus comes, we will be resurrected by Him
 - (7) Give us eternal life (John 3:14-15). Finally, He will give eternal life to all of us who have believed in Him.

❖ Jesus offers us life.

- When Jesus spoke of himself as the "bread of life" (John 6:35), he invited his listeners (and us) to "eat" that bread [that is, to know him and assimilate his words] (John 6:51).
- How does Jesus impart eternal life to us?
 - (1) Through his words (Jn. 5:24)
 - (2) By working to feed ourselves on Him (John 6:27)
 - (3) By believing in Him (Jn. 6:47)
 - (4) By following him (Jn. 10:27-28)
 - (5) Desiring it more than physical life (Jn. 12:25)
 - (6) By giving us the Father's commandment (Jn. 12:49-50)
 - (7) When we come to know Him (John 17:3)
- And the best news is that Jesus offers eternal life freely to those who want it.

B LIFE in us:

❖ Receive life.

- In John 1:12-13 we can clearly see which is the human and which is the divine part in the process of salvation: we receive Jesus and believe in Him; Jesus makes us children of God by transforming us into new creatures.
- Receiving eternal life today is an interactive process between the Holy Spirit and us:
 - (1) The Spirit gives us faith (Eph. 2:8) → We grow in it (Rom. 10:17)
 - (2) The Spirit convicts us of our sin (John 16:8) → We repent (Ps. 51:3)
 - (3) The Spirit leads us to Jesus (John 15:26) → We accept Him (Acts 16:31)
 - (4) The Spirit makes us born again (Jn. 3:5-6) → We recognize him by being baptized (Mt. 28:19)

❖ Accept or reject life.

- Encountering Jesus leads to a dichotomy: accepting or rejecting him. And this implies accepting or rejecting life... eternal life!
- Many make this decision out of doubt. They expect to believe in Jesus if science, philosophy, archaeology, or any other modern science can support the evidence for Jesus.
- This is nothing new. For example, 10 of the 12 spies sent by Moses to scout the Promised Land analyzed the evidence and came to a conclusion: God has no power to conquer this land (Num. 13:31-33).
- But two of them analyzed God, and found the evidence: He has the power to overcome (Num. 14:6-9).
- What will your decision be, and on what basis will you make it?

❖ Rejection results.

- The Bible is clear about the result of rejecting Jesus: falling under God's wrath and being condemned (John 3:18-19, 36).
- Given such a bleak outlook, why do so many reject Jesus?
- Jesus is light. His light illuminates us, and we can see ourselves as we really are. All the evil in us (and there is much) is exposed (John 3:20).
- The worst thing is that remaining in darkness puts us on Satan's turf. He hates and destroys all his subjects. On the contrary, being in the light is taking refuge in the shelter of a loving God (Ps. 91:1-4).
- Let us follow Jesus' example to remain in the light and reject darkness: to take hold of the Word of God (Mt. 4:1-4).