

JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2005: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE: Col 1:9-14

**Over the last few days.....** thoughts have been occupied with two entirely diff subjects

**DEATH .....**VICTORY (SUCCESS).....has been the other

**Death .....**as I traveled to Mount Barker..... BUT ALSO

**Victory.....**as I boldly proclaimed victory over death for Terry.....not on the basis..  
.....but because of God's Great love.....revealed in the sacrifice on the cross

**and with that thought of ultimate victory over death**

also the thought of Success in this life

**As Terry Halge walked with the Lord.....**despite difficulties....

He was living a successful life for Jesus....in the strength Jesus gave

**From ... human** viewpoint...most may not have seen Terry's life as partic successful

( *Cemetery.....Wine maker extraordinaire .....He was successful.....*

*But in eternity the fact that he made good wine.....Is not a measure of success*

*But how much his life.....linked with...empowered by...Jesus)*

**That same idea of success for Jesus and through Jesus.....**is also seen in the celebration today by Peter and Joan.....of 60 years.....

**Now to be married to the same.....**for 60 years.....is something that our society highly commends → cards from....

**But more important than how man sees things.....**is how God sees things

And I believe He looks upon their marriage as a success.....

Not because of its length

**Or because** it has always been smooth and prickle free

But because they have both sought to live out their relationship for Jesus....

And have done so by relying on His strength....guidance....correction

As a result of such thoughts.....began to think.....Characteristics of a successful Life  
So with that in mind.....Turn with me to Colossians 1:9-14....

**THE FIRST CHARACTERISTIC of a Successful life.....found in v10**

That you live a life.....worthy of the Lord.....fully pleasing to Him

**As a believer....is that your aim ??**

And if so.....**What** do you think it means for you....to live a...WORTHY OF...

*(I think of the WWJD bracelets....It's that and more →*

*As a child....remember you are a Hall.....Theres a good reputation that your parents  
have built....be careful that u don't...)*

**Jesus has revealed a way of life to us**.....That is God impowered....God glorifying  
And reveals love for God.....Love for others.....As its central feature

**The Successful life.....is a life like that**

**Its also a life that is fully pleasing to Jesus**

When did you last face a choice....between pleasing yourself....someone u were with

OR PLEASING JESUS

(Can recall talking to Christians.....armed forces.....They are also the ones that others  
come to when they want someone to talk to...)

**THE SECOND CHARACTERISTIC of a successful life→** Is that it's a life  
.....THAT is bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of....

**Fruit bearing is the outward sign**....of God the Spirit working in my life

So we talk about the Fruit of the Spirit.....

**There must also be the Fruit**....which is the influence of the Gospel....as portrayed  
in some way by us.....on the lives of others:::Drawing some one a step closer to God

**Then there is also fruit**.....happens as we sacrifice ourselves.....some way small or...  
Because we are followers of Jesus

*Someone wrote that Sacrificing our lives for Jesus is like giving Him a cheque for....  
But He doesn't take it all at once*

*Instead He sends us to the bank.....tells us to change it for 50c pieces*

*Then we go through life putting out 50c here and a \$ there*

*Listening to the neighbour's kids troubles instead of saying, "Get lost"*

*Going to a committee meeting*

*Giving a cup of water to a shabby old man in a nursing home*

*Taking the time to tell some lonely person....how much Jesus and you cares for them*

*Usually giving our lives to Christ isn't glorious. It's done in all those little acts of love,  
50 c at a time. It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it's harder to live the  
Christian life little by little over the long haul*

**Notice that such fruit bearing is not alone**...It includes growing in the knowledge of  
God

**Knowledge** gained through studying His Word

Spending quite time talking with Him

But also trusting Him as you seek to minister in His name

**We have put a lot of emphasis on studying**....

But if that's all we do....**then our very knowledge is incomplete**

Fruit bearing and knowledge gaining.....must go together

### **THE THIRD CHARACTERISTIC OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE**

..v11 a life strengthened by God's power...**having endurance..patience...and joy**

#### **In other words**

Your life will be successful in God's eyes.....when you depend upon His power daily

When you say as Paul did.....I can do all things thro.....

**We try so hard in our own strength**

When all the power of God.....is just a prayer away

**DANIEL** preferred to spend a night with hungry lions.....than miss a day of prayer

**The most glorious thing is....That God's Power makes us Effective**

*(illustration from Kevin Bacon.....p191.....)*

**But it also gives us Endurance**.....which means bearing up under great pressure

**Patience**.....enabling us to take abuse...ill treatment...without blowing up

**Joy**.....As we are reminded daily.....that in Christ we have an inheritance...never fails

**But of course.....these characteristics of a life**...seen by God as pleasing....successful  
Can only belong to one who belongs to Jesus

**Who...as v13 puts it**

Has been rescued from the Kingdom of darkness.....brought into the kingdom

*(There have been many stories.....come out of that dreadful tragedy last Thursday  
→Went completely dark....carriages filled with smoke...smell of burning flesh  
Then someone came and rescued us....They led us out of the darkness into...)*

**That what Jesus came to earth to do for you**.....You may not feel you need it now  
But you don't know what is ahead.....

**It's because Jesus does.....need Him so much**