A life without Christ is a life with crisis

TEXTS: Eph.2:11-12; 4:17-19

OUTLINE:
- Introduction
- Typical features of a life without Christ – Some Bible equations.
  - A life without THE LIGHT
  - A life without FAITH
  - A life without HOPE
  - A life without LIFE
  - A Christian, and yet living a crisis-ridden life!
- Conclusion

Introduction
A life without Christ is a life without light – a life in darkness!
A life without Christ is a life without faith – a faithless life!
A life without Christ is a life without hope – a hopeless life, full of misery and woe!
A life without Christ is a life without love – a lust-filled life!
A life without Christ is a life without the truth – a life full of lies, hypocrisy!
A life without Christ is a life without peace – a turbulent life!
A life without Christ is a life without control – a disorganized life!
A life without Christ is a life without law – a lawless life!
A life without Christ is a life without fulfillment – a regret-filled life!
A life without Christ is a life without life – an empty life!
A life without Christ is a life with crisis!

People today have removed Christ from their homes, resulting in countless number of broken homes and dysfunctional families. People today have removed Christ from governance, hence high-handed corrupt practices and gross misconduct. People today have removed Christ from the schools, resulting in an agnostic generation given to lust and juvenile delinquency. People today have removed Christ from the society, and have replaced Him with celebrities and stardom, who take the lead in binge drinking, misuse of drugs, reckless divorce, marital unfaithfulness, teenage pregnancies and irresponsible adulthood. Britain's binge drinking culture is costing the country £20 billion a year, according to a government report. The study by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit shows 17 million working days are lost to hangovers and drink-related illness each year. The annual cost to employers is estimated to be £6.4 billion while the cost to the NHS is in the region of £1.7bn. Billions more are spent clearing up alcohol-related crime and social problems. In addition, alcohol-related problems are responsible for 22,000 premature deaths each year.

The world number 1 golfer, Tiger Woods, has just left rehab home, following the controversial circumstances bothering on marital infidelity. John Terry, the brilliant Chelsea skipper, and till last week, the captain of England football team, was stripped of his captaincy by Fabio Capello, the manager of the football squad, because of his illicit affairs with Vanessa, the ex-wife of Wayne Bridge, a professional colleague, playing also for the English club and Manchester City. The indomitable Chelsea player, Ashley Cole, is currently grappling with questions relating to him sending explicit and suggestive text messages to model, Sonia Wild. TV presenter, Vernon Kay branded himself "stupid" after admitting sending explicit texts to around five women. These are the kind of headlines that constantly make our daily news. SCANDAL! SCANDAL!! SCANDAL!!! Lives without Christ! Lives without purpose! Lives in crisis!
A life without Christ is a life with crisis

Crisis is defined as an unstable situation of extreme danger or difficulty. There are several forms of crisis. We all are well acquainted with the economic crisis that has engulfed the U.K and the rest of the world, in the last 2 years, variously tagged “recession”, “meltdown”, “downturn”, etc. Health crisis, political crisis, socio-cultural crisis and spiritual crisis are other forms of crisis, but the greatest and most critical is spiritual crisis, as the effects of this are far-reaching, extending beyond this life. The wise king Solomon taught veritable lessons throughout the book of Ecclesiastes about the vanity and emptiness of a life without God. He conquered economic misery and financial woes, being extremely wealthy. He lived in affluence all his days. He caught all the fun life could afford, and yet summarized it all as “VANITY OF VANITIES”. Indeed, absolute emptiness! (Eccle.2:1-11; 1:1-2) Solomon’s recognition of the whole duty of man as “fearing God and keeping His commandment”, powerfully suggests that spiritual bankruptcy is far more terrible than economic or any other form of crisis.

Typical features of a life without Christ – 10 Bible Equations

- Life minus (-) Christ = Darkness-----------------------------Equation 1
- Life minus (-) Christ = Faithlessness = Sinfulness-- -----Equation 3
- Life minus (-) Christ = Hopelessness------------------------Equation 2
- Life minus (-) Christ = Lustfulness = Sinfulness-----------Equation 4
- Life minus (-) Christ = Lies = Sinfulness -------------------Equation 5
- Life minus (-) Christ = Turbulence ------------------------Equation 6
- Life minus (-) Christ = Lawlessness = Sinfulness---------Equation 7
- Life minus (-) Christ = Regret -----------------------------Equation 8
- Life minus (-) Christ = Lifelessness = Death--------------Equation 9
- Life minus (-) Christ = CRISIS----------------------------Equation 10

A Life without the LIGHT

The concept of light originated with God. The account of creation in Genesis declares: “And God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light. (Gen.1:3). The Bible was unequivocal in expressing the light-infusing nature of Christ: “…In Him was life, and the life was the LIGHT of men........” [Jn.1: 4 (1-5)]. The just and devout man, Simeon, described Jesus as a LIGHT to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. (Lk.2:32). Christ is the light and thus has made His followers (Christians) the light of the world (Mt.5:14), for He has called us into light. “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (IPet.2:9). “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them (II Cor.4:3-4). Rejecting Christ amounts to rejecting the light sent by God to shine through the darkness of sin and error. Anyone who does not have Christ therefore is living in utmost darkness. What a crisis-ridden life!

A Life without FAITH

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen............. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible..............But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”. (Heb.11:1, 3, 6). “The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity….” (Ps.53.1). A lot of people have put their faith and trust in their capabilities, intelligence and material possessions, but what does Christ teach in the parable of
A life without Christ is a life with crisis

the rich fool? "Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, "What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God (Lk.12: 13-20). Anyone who is in bankruptcy concerning faith in God will end up like the rich fool. Even, the demons are better than such a person, because they believe in the existence of God, and even shudder. Let us hear what the Holy Spirit said to the Christians at Thessalonica: “…and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 1when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe….." (II Thess.1: 7-10a). Again, a life that does not believe in GOD is a life in unimaginable CRISIS.

A Life without HOPE
Paul asserted that there is ONE HOPE of the Christian’s calling. This is the hope of eternal life. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (John.3:14-21). It has become completely apparent from this passage that one who fails to believe in the son of God (that is a life without faith in Jesus), is totally hopeless. Such a one does not have any expectation of eternal salvation. And what is the condemnation, yes, the absolute hopelessness? ……..that such a one rejected the LIGHT (and therefore became a life without the LIGHT), with the love to practice evil, and also conceal their evil practices. Jesus gives meaning to life. Those who hope in this world have discovered that it amounts to nothing. Some, because of their hopelessness, have turned to alcohol, drugs and crime. The Sun Newspaper recently reported 2 guys who threw a drunkard into a river, and laughed off as he drowned and died. Few days later, one of the murderers also became heavily drunk and was hit by his girlfriend with a stiletto! How horrendous! A life without CHRIST is a life without hope and of course, a life with unprecedented CRISIS.

A Life without LIFE
Jesus came to give LIFE and to give LIFE in abundance (John.10: 10, 9). The thief, the devil came to steal, to kill and to destroy. The devil has stolen people’s right to LIFE. He has stolen their right to salvation. He is constantly killing and destroying them by helping them to turn away from the Living
A life without Christ is a life with crisis

God. He has strengthened their tendencies to sin, and has blindfolded them. A life that fails to believe in God’s only son is prone to perish and will not have eternal LIFE. Christ gives life. **Don’t forget that in Him (Christ), was LIFE, and the LIFE was the LIGHT of men. (John.1:4)** Millions of people think this life is all about food, wine, clothing and holidays. That explains the reason why shops like Tesco, Asda, Marks and Spencer, Debenhams, Dorothy Perkins, Fig leaves, John Lewis, Levis, Next, Joe Brown, Clarke, Wallis, Laura Ashley, Selfridges, House of Fraser, T.M Lewin, Hawes and Curtis, Berry Bros and Rudd, and now in the recession, Primark, will always be filled to capacity every day and night. People are constantly shopping for food, clothing and wine and the best holiday deals. But what does Christ say: "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Christ reminded the devil that man does not live by bread (or food) alone, but by every word of God. Jesus is the **WAY**, the **TRUTH** and the **LIFE**. No one can get unto the Father except through Christ. Millions and trillions of people today are walking on the narrow way that leads to destruction. Only few chose the strait and narrow way that leads to LIFE. Anyone who rejects Christ has simply rejected the WAY to salvation. Such a one has rejected the **TRUTH** of God, and is therefore living in lies and hypocrisies. Such lies include the theory of evolution: the denial of God’s creative powers; the non-existence of heaven and hell; the theory of finality in death: that there is no life after death, amongst others. How incredible! Such a person has most unfortunately, rejected LIFE! According to **John.3:36**: “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”. Again, Jesus says: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John.5:24). “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John.17:3). There is one lawgiver (James.4:12). Christ is this “one lawgiver”. A life without Christ is a life without Christ’s law, and it is life in lawlessness. Again, lawlessness amounts to sin (IJohn.3: 4). A lawless life is usually a regret-filled life and thus an empty life. I mean, a LIFELESS LIFE!

**A Christian, and yet living a crisis-ridden life!**

As we constantly pray that all who are without Christ should become obedient to His gospel and be saved, it is absolutely essential for Christians to exercise great care, so we don’t fall, because it is very possible for one to be a follower of Christ, and yet, be living a crisis-filled life, and in fact, be lifeless, yes, I mean, become spiritually unviable. A Christian who lives a life that has become separated from the word of God does not have life. Christ indeed says: **It is the Spirit who gives LIFE; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are LIFE**”. (John.6:63). When we live without respect for God’s word, we become spiritually dead. The Bible says: “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace........ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness”. (Rom.8: 6, 10). Little wonder, Paul says: “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable” (I Cor.15:19). May we understand that our lives are hidden in Christ and that when Christ who is our life appears, we will also appear with Him in glory (Col.3: 3-4). May we constantly join the 18th Century composer, **Edward Mote** in singing: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ, the solid rock I stand, all other grounds is sinking sand, all other grounds is sinking sand”

**Conclusion**

A life is Christ is a peace-filled life, an orderly life for He is not the author of confusion, a faithful life, an illuminated life, a hopeful life, a fulfilled life, a love-filled life, and a true life. It is a lively life, and indeed, a Christ-filled life, not a crisis-torn life.
A life without Christ is a life with crisis

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” *(Lk.14:27).*

**GOD SAID IT. THAT SETTLES IT, I BELIEVE IT, THE BIBLE IS PERFECT!**