

So, we find that church life follows a very similar pattern to worldly life. But there is something else. As we grow in spiritual knowledge, we slowly learn that, no matter which church we are in, church, just like the world, is never as good as we expect it to be. No church follows Christ as He presents Himself in Scripture. So, we either have to put up with the imperfections we have got in the church we find ourselves in, or move churches. But even if we do move, it only results in our attending another imperfect institution with other difficulties.

Eventually, as we grow old, we can't get to all of the church services any more anyway. And we find that, after all, well, actually we don't really mind that. As we mature in the faith, we grow out of "church" altogether. We have the Bible alone for our comfort and strength. Then when we can't even see to read or hear the Bible any longer, we simply rely on Jesus Christ Himself in our hearts. Until the time comes when He calls us home. And that is the true, spiritual, Christian life.

Hebrews 13:5
...he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

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Life

Genesis 3:19
....dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

James 4:14
....For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

As we grow, we learn things and live in the light of what we learn. This knowledge changes over time as we learn new things and reject old things we used to believe when we were younger but don't any more. As we grow old, we start to forget things, until we grow so old we can't even do things any more and eventually die. That's life.

Furthermore, we are all born in sin. We live for the sole purpose of living for and pleasing self. We only ever show kindness to other people if it suits us. Usually we want companionship, so, what appears to be kindness to others is really, underneath everything, serving ourselves, because we want friends, we want their influence, help, money or we have some other such like purpose. We don't genuinely want them for who they are in themselves at all. And others will have exactly the same idea when they befriend us. We spend our entire lives

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living like this, only seeing our fellow humans for what we can get out of them for ourselves. As we grow old and become more and more useless to others, we lose most of our friends, because we no longer serve their purposes. And we treat others in exactly the same way if they no longer serve our purposes. This is how we spend our lives.

What a useless existence.

But, there is a God to whom we shall all give an account.

Naturally, most people don't want to give an account to anyone else for their selfish behaviour. So, they find it very convenient that God is invisible to our natural senses, because they think that means they can quite happily not believe in his very existence and carry on the way they are.

Others, realising the pointlessness of living for themselves, embrace a man-made religion, an invented belief system that incorporates a supernatural world other than this one, maybe with a god or gods in control. And, the crazy thing is that they actually believe that they can please such deities by doing a few tasks themselves or behaving a certain way.

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But we can never please the true God.

We are stuck in these self-centred bodies, only ever living for self. How can we ever live for God, if we can't even begin to live for anybody else? If we want to know the truth about ourselves, then this is it.

We all, as individuals, need a Saviour to save us from this mess that we're in, because we can't get out of it ourselves.

So, let's now talk about church.

We become a Christian. We start going to church. And we find ourselves ending up following a very similar pattern in church circles to how we were in the world.

We begin knowing nothing about God at all. We grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we grow in this new spiritual knowledge, we learn things and live in the light of what we learn. As in the world, this knowledge in us changes over time as we learn new things and reject old things we used to believe when we were younger but don't any more. And as we grow old, we start to forget things, until we grow so old we can't even do things in the church any more. And we eventually die.

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