

CHARIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE
SERMON NOTES

DATE : 1 MARCH, 2009
SPEAKER : REV. LAWRENCE YAP
TOPIC : **LET'S GROW IN LIFE!**
TEXT : JAMES 4: 13 – 14

How have we been living? How have been growing?
It is said that “a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step”.

Until and unless our life is put in order, the growth of our Christian walk will be hindered.

Therefore, this morning, let us all seriously evaluate our life.

3 Common Patterns of Lifestyles that we need to evaluate:

1. Some live in the PRESENT but TOO FOCUSED on the future

- This lifestyle, also known as the migrant spirit/attitude is very common and true during the times of our forefathers as they worked and lived hard to build a better future for their children. This may not be entirely wrong but they are more ‘wrong’ than they are ‘right.’
- James 4: 13 described **life as unpredictable as the mist, here today and gone.**

The repercussions of this lifestyle:

- Some neither enjoyed the **present** nor had the opportunity to see the **future. Not only are families neglected, but also relationship with God and service to God.**
- Some people spend all their **health** to gain **wealth**, and ended having to spend their **wealth to regain back their health.** What an irony, **for the most important commodity of life is health - wealth is health**

2. Some live in the PRESENT and OVERWHELMED by the PRESENT

- Are we being suffocated by our current lifestyle? Are we becoming more temperamental, easily irritable and tired? If so, we have allowed the demands of life, our work, our

families and even our ministries to overshadow us. Our life is without boundary and we are even unable to say “no” without feeling guilty, to be able to allow ourselves time to spend with God and hear what God is speaking to us.

- We have to set our priorities right and realign back to God. **When we honour God, God will honour us.**
- Matt. 11:28 = “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest from your souls.”

3. Some live in the PRESENT but are BOUND by the PAST

- Are you still “caught up” with past hurts, disappointments, failed relationships, anger, bitterness and unforgiveness, that you are not able to move forward in life?
- **“Forgiveness doesn’t change the past, but it does enlarge the future. Forgiveness doesn’t make the person right, but it sets you free.”**
- **Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that you may live and have it to the full.”**

4. Some live ENJOYING the PRESENT but yet PREARING for the FUTURE.

- James 4: 15-17 = “Instead, you ought to say, ‘if it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that. As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then who knows the good, ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.’”
- **Let us be committed to living in harmony with God’s will.**