

Living Waters Chapel
1900 Jay St., Lebanon, PA 17046

~ *SERMON NOTES* ~

Pastor D. Dean Cover
September 7, 2008

SERMON SERIES: *“Running on Empty: There’s Gotta be More to Life Than This!” Part 1*

SERMON TITLE: *“So You Don’t Want to Go to Church Anymore!”*

SCRIPTURE: John 10:10

THEME: Christianity is not based on rules and rituals, but instead on an intimate relationship with God as your Loving Heavenly Father!

INTRODUCTION: A.S. - How many have ever felt overwhelmed because you’re really busy and life seems so hectic? Sure, all of us can say yes to that question. But here’s a more important question: You may be really busy but in the midst of your busyness are you really living? Just because we’re busy doesn’t mean our lives are meaningful. The fact is many Christians have worn-out bodies that house empty souls. We need to ask ourselves the question: “Am I truly living?”

The difficult truth is many Christians have bought into the mindset that emphasizes the importance of busyness and activity trying to accomplish things for God and this attitude keeps us from living intimately with God. The church often measure a person’s worth by what he or she accomplishes. As a result many people believe that God values what they do more than who they are. So what happens is many live for God rather than living with Him. The result is many Christians are running on empty and so they don’t experience the satisfying and authentic life of faith even though Jesus promised that it could be lived.

I. THE PROMISE OF A JOY-FILLED LIFE WITH MEANING AND PURPOSE

- A. This life is not some philosophical thought or some theological viewpoint that is to be kept in the classroom to debate.
- B. This life is real that includes fullness; freedom; joy and peace no matter what happens.
- C. Psalm 34:8
- D. John 10:10 contains the word "more abundantly." The word is unique in the Greek. "Abundance" is a "superlative." If you remember from English there are comparatives and superlatives?" "Good, Better, Best?" Here in John 10:10, the word is "More." It’s "better than the best!" It’s "greater than the greatest." It’s "fuller than the fullest!" This is the life that Christ wants every one of us to experience everyday.

II. WE OFTEN STRUGGLE WITH THIS JOY-LIFE BECAUSE WE’RE OFTEN RUNNING ON EMPTY

- A. “Busyness is the enemy of spirituality. It is essentially laziness. It is doing the easy thing instead of the hard thing. It is filling our time with our own actions instead of paying attention to God's actions. It is taking charge.” Eugene Peterson in *The Door* (Nov./Dec.1991). *Christianity Today*, Vol. 36, no. 5.
- B. Revelation 2:1-7
- C. **THOUGHT:** You can get so busy working for Christ that you lose sight of really knowing Him and experiencing life with Him.

CONCLUSION: Every one of us has a choice to make. We can be honest with ourselves that even though we’re busy and we’re doing Christian things we’re empty when it comes to our relationship with God. We can be real with God or we can silently endure this lifelessness. If we’re going to be real, we’ll have to admit to God and ask for His forgiveness for substituting our works and busyness for

the power of His love. You can experience the deeper joy of being with your caring, loving God.