

“Shooting Star”

Psalms 144:3-4

Drake Hunter - January 20, 2018

Lord, thank you for a meaningful and significant life even though our cherished beliefs get in the way of understanding what that means. Forgive us for being closed-minded to your True beliefs. We ask for an opening of our minds towards your realities. We ask to lift the blindness of our souls, so we can see your true beliefs and then live them out according to your Ways. We now focus and submit to your truth and Spirit; in Jesus name. Amen!

Two weeks ago, we began our yearlong series, “L.I.F.E. ROCK ON!”, and our goal in 2019 is to give knowledge and understanding of what “Integrity” is for the Christian so we can live a meaningful and truthful life. Each week we are using a “Classical Rock” song as our theme to uncover some powerful biblical truths and lessons to apply to your lives.

We began the year with the song “Dream On!” composed and performed by the band Aerosmith, which revealed the biblical truth of the importance of vision, dream on, standing on the Greatness of God. Last week, the song, “Dust In the Wind” by the band Kansas, which lead us to the biblical truth of living life “Fearing God and obeying his commands”. This week, a “Classic Rock” song by the band Bad Company, and our message, “Shooting Star.”

Psalms 144:3-5

*Lord, what are human beings that you care for them,
mere mortals that you think of them?
They are like a breath;
their days are like a fleeting shadow.*

How true it is our life equals but a breath. Thinking about it, in context of, “who you are”, you only have one breath to live; like it or not, that breath belongs to God. It’s where your soul dwells in this life. The moment you were born, if you recall, you took in half of a breath, then, suddenly, before you will even know it, you’ll let out the second half of that breath and die in this life. It is true, we only have one breath to live, and our lives are but a breath; our days are like a fleeting shadow, as the Psalmist shares in Psalms 144.

The song, “Shooting Star”, composed by the band Bad Company is a sad story of one breath – Johnny. It’s a story that parallels many other “breaths” or people that surrender to the hardships of life. It’s a story about a person who takes his first breath, chooses himself as the greatest source of goodness, self-centeredness, and then quickly succumbs to the ways of excessive living, then he let’s out his second half of breath, and then he dies. He dies way before his time of a drug overdose. The song “Shooting Star” from band Bad Company is a wretched story of one breath.

According to Bad Company’s lead singer Paul Rodgers, who wrote the song, he says, “the song is a warning about the casualties of life.” And Simon Kirke, the band’s drummer, said, “This song is a homage (respect) to the pitfalls in the world. Many people (believers/non-believers) succumb to the dangers (fear of man) or pitfalls of this world, and it’s very, very simple to do. We must understand it and respect it, to overcome it. Don’t think for a second, you can bypass or disrespect the hazards of this world. Why? Because if you do, you are only fooling yourself.

Galatians 6:3 (TLB)

If anyone thinks he is too great to stoop to this, [bypassing the pitfalls of life]

*he is fooling himself.
He is really a nobody. [empty of true beliefs]*

Unfortunately, today, even looking around here and thinking of the reader who's reading this message, many people let the pitfalls of life fool them. Pitfalls like: fame, fame as we experience it in the song "Shooting Star". But what about pitfalls of social status. In Morgan County this is a huge pitfall. Social status, that is; reputation, "name" is everything mentality, and ranking within the community (class, gender, culture) for many is the highest value in life – foolishness, as Galatians 6:3 shares. How about the pitiful of wealth? Know this about wealth, your wealth (money and stuff) doesn't give you the right to sit where you want in this life, to include this church or any other church for that matter. It doesn't give you the highest voice in your so-called wealth position, or does it give you a better standing in any community. If you believe this, and it is a cherished belief, again, you are only fooling yourself and you are really a nobody, that is, empty of God's Truth. Most people who fall into this way of thinking, slowly, it goes to their heads and slowly it empties out life of the things that matter most in life, that is a real relationship with God and people, all people, and like King Solomon, the Apostle Paul, and I share this morning it is, "Meaningless!"

It's happening at an alarming rate in our day and age, and in all generations! People, here and everywhere, are succumbing to the sinful ways of life under the sun, and life is meaningless! Meaning, people are primarily motivated or driven towards things that emptying out their lives, rather than fill them up with Ways (true real beliefs) that lead to a flourishing and meaningful life. People continue to do it through the pitfalls of this world.

Romans 6:23

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ
Jesus our Lord.*

What matters most, in this life, is receiving the gift of God; that is, to open your mind to true real beliefs, rather than dwelling in "cherish stuck beliefs" that often, with good intentions, lead to death - emptiness. An open-mind towards God truly is the gift of Life, under the sun, and it's your responsibility to give attention to what truly matters in this life, so you can transfer to life beyond the Sun – HEAVEN.

So, what matter most? Well...everything that transfers from this life to the "Life" beyond the Sun where God resides completely. What transfers? People, you know, your neighbors, all people. So, what matters? God matters. You matter! Your marriage matters. Family and friends, matter? Our church [Illustration: Here's the Church] filled with people, matter. As B106 puts it, "The people of Morgan County matter". All people in our state matter. What about everyone in our nation? Yup, they matter too. And yes, all citizens of the world, "with breath", matter. No matter what your cherished beliefs, that is, your bias, prejudices, or discriminating beliefs are telling you, All PEOPLE MATTER!

Now, let me say this, when I speak of people, I'm referring to breathing human beings now, rather than human beings of the past. Know this, God's got their backs. Their meaning and significance now sit in a different dimension of life – the "Afterlife". My point, let's quite chasing the past, learn from the past and move forward in this Life. Let's quite chasing non-living things of the past. Let's appreciate the past, respect the past and learn from it so we can move forward to add meaning to life NOW. Stop chasing lifeless relationships and empty things. It's the only way to move forward.

You see, rather than chasing “what you think matters” (that’s being a shooting star) let’s focus on what truly matters through a proper perspective or worldview in this Life. For the Christian, or anyone for that matter, our worldview, our prospective comes directly from the properly interpreted Word of God, the Bible.

Genesis 1:27

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

Our prospective, or worldview in life, that is what primarily motivates you, doesn’t come from what you do, or standing on fame, wealth, politics, or status, how good you can compete with one another, but it comes directly from God, which we just read in Genesis. Our prospective, our worldview, and don’t ever waiver from this, is... “Man is a creature of God, made in the Image of God.” Which means, first, that human beings, all human beings are to be understood as having originated, not through a chance process of evolution, but through a conscious **purposeful** act by God. All human beings are made with a purpose! Therefore, there is a reason for a person’s existence, a reason which lies in the intention of the supreme being (God the Father). And as a human being we are responsible to find our holiness (our uniqueness, our purpose) from within so we can serve God and others, and help them to uncover their purpose, so together, we can live meaningful and significant lives collectively. That is to live through God’s ways rather than Man’s empty and single-minded cherish beliefs that always leads to isolation, separation, and loneliness. It’s time, as the classic rock band, “The Beatles” shared, “Come Together!” It’s time to come together and be purposeful as God is purposeful.

1 Peter 1:16

"Be holy, because I am holy."

Yes, Paul Rogers, the lead singer of Bad Company, wrote the song “Shooting Star” based on a certain life-style (rock-in-roll). However; if you think about it, it really doesn’t matter the life-style (religious life-style, wealthy life-style, political life-style, free life-style), because no matter the life-style, when locked into your cherished beliefs, rather than being open minded to God’s true beliefs, you are nothing more than a ‘Shooting Star’ yourself. A shooting star that takes in half a breath, when born, lives through “Self-centeredness” rather than “God-Centeredness”, let’s out the other half of a breath, then dies - a wretched story of one breath.

So, this song, on a grander scale is more than just a composite of a musician’s life, it based on all our lives. We are all a ‘Shooting Star’, if we aim at the wrongs things that are meaningless and emptying out of our relationship with God and people.

Like the Song implies and the Bible reveals, we are not after stardom, but after a purposeful and meaningful life that expresses God’s beauty, harmony, goodness, and truth in all our relationships driven by a purpose. We are not to be a “Shooting Star” but a Breath that truly matters.

The Message: “Shooting Star”. Amen! If you took in the message today, say, “ROCK ON!”

Before we wrap things up...let me ask you a vital question. If your heart stopped beating in the next few minutes are you at peace with God? Do you know where you would spend eternity? If not, I would love the opportunity to pray with you. I'm not here to condemn anybody, rather, to help you find a new beginning within your breath. And I know that comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Won't you pray with me today. Just say...

Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins. Come into my heart. Wash me clean. I make you my Lord and Savior.

Friend, if you prayed that simple prayer, we believe you're "Born Again". The scripture says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." That's just what you did. Now, I encourage you to keep God first place in your life. Get a Bible. Read it every day. You can start in one of the gospels, like John. Then, just learn to pray. Prayer is simply talking to God. You don't need some formal long words. Just talk to God like you would talk to a Friend.

I believe today is going to be a new beginning in your life. Write it down in your Bible. It's going to be a new day of victory for You.