



BEACON

Vol. LV / No. 40

October 5, 2026

A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ

4850 Saufley Field Road; Pensacola, FL 32526
850-455-7595

The Abundant Life

Marvin L. Weir

Most people have probably heard the following statement uttered more than once: “Boy, this is really living!” Is it? Most people seemingly have no clue what abundant living is. It was the Lord who taught: “The thief cometh not, but that he may steal, and kill, and destroy: I came that they may have life, and may have *it* abundantly” (John 10:10). Do those who profess to be children of God realize the importance of the Scripture above? It stands to reason that both Christians and non-Christians would be motivated to place top priority on that which is godly and right if they truly understood what abundant living is all about. Guy N. Woods commented on John 10:10 as follows:

The “thief” represents *false teachers* who will, without hesitation, sacrifice the sheep for their own gain. This is a clear and unmistakable denunciation of all who teach any other doctrine (2 John 9), while knowing the truth of the gospel. The contrast Jesus draws is a vivid one; he comes to give life; the thief to destroy life; he to offer it in abundance, the thief to take it away. The word “abundantly,” means bountiful blessings overflowing in extent the rich supply that only deity can give (Psa. 33:1ff). The Greek term used suggests the idea of a continuous overflowing—a never ceasing supply of life for every faithful soul. All this the thief would take away. We must not lose sight of the fact that the “thief” in this narrative is the person who teaches that the way

of salvation is some other than that Jesus gave. These specifically described here were selfishly motivated but the ones who are misled are lost whatever the motivations may be. The sheep which follow a stranger’s voice are destroyed though themselves unaware of the motives of the false shepherd; their honesty and sincerity will be of no avail to them at the last great day (*A Commentary on The Gospel According to John*, pp 208-209).

If we are truly interested in the abundant life that the Savior provides, we must first bring this world into its proper perspective. Jesus stated to His apostles:

If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life? (Mat. 16:24-26).

On another occasion Christ taught:

For I came to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law: and a man’s foes *shall be* they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son

or daughter more than me is not worthy of me (10:35-37).

The question that demands an answer: “Are we more interested in life in the here and now, or in abundant life in the there and then?”

Most people give far more attention to the world that now is than to the eternal place of abode that is to come! Christians need to be convicted that Heaven is worth far more than all the sacrifices they will have to make to gain entrance there. Abundant life does indeed cost something. At times we must choose between family, friends, associates, our job, or doing the will of the Lord. The devil will tempt us with thinking that “true living” is found in this world, but the discerning student of God’s Word knows that **abundant life** lies beyond this world!

How long do you plan to live? Seventy, eighty, ninety, or perhaps to the age of one hundred years? Planning to live far beyond that number of years quickly brings things into focus. As children of God, you and I should be planning to live for

an eternity! And, in so planning, we should be motivated to make the proper adjustments in this life to ensure that even though our “earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1).

May we ever be grateful for God’s great love, grace, and mercy made available to us through His only begotten Son’s death on Calvary’s cross! Let us strive to love God and the things that are above (Col. 3:1-3) instead of Satan and the temporal things of this world. Abundant life! Thank God for the Gospel and its power to save the soul from sin (Rom. 1:16). Abundant life! May we truly see that seventy to one hundred years of so-called happiness in this world pales into insignificance when compared to eternity! Do you really desire an abundant life? Just remember, that in this world is where you prove such—after death cometh the Judgment (Heb. 9:27).

Blossom, TX

Do Not Forsake God

The northern kingdom of Israel had been taken captive as punishment for **forsaking God**. The people of Judah should have learned from this, yet Jeremiah was sent to warn them of the same fate for their apostasy. In describing their situation, God said:

Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate,...For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water (Jer. 2:12-13).

God was able to provide life (“living waters”), **yet** they were forsaking Him.

Man needs God. When man forsakes God, he must look elsewhere for purpose, direction, provision, and hope. But ultimately, anything he finds to replace God will leave him empty—like “broken cisterns that can hold no water.” We need

to remember that **we are lost without God**. Nothing we might pursue on our own will ever replace Him and what He provides. **Therefore, do not forsake God.** Our only hope is from Him, so we must remain faithful to Him in all things. So many around us have turned their backs on the Lord. Let us not follow their example.

Author Unknown

Achievement is not bounded by life. It is this truth that solves the mystery of the death of those who go in the prime of their usefulness, and with their work apparently all unfinished. God’s plans have no horizon. “On earth, the broken arcs; in heaven, the perfect round.”

Author Unknown

Everyone is invited to attend!

Bellview Church of Christ

Gospel Meeting

with

Gilbert Gough

October 4–8, 2026

Sunday Bible Class:	Lovest Thou Me?
Sunday Morning Worship:	The Kingdom of Heaven (Part 1)
Sunday Afternoon Worship:	The Kingdom of Heaven (Part 2)
Monday Evening:	The Kingdom at War and Peace
Tuesday Evening:	Know the Enemy
Wednesday Evening:	Encouragement for the Present
Thursday Evening:	Man Under God's Wrath

Sunday: 9:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., & 1:00 P.M.

Monday – Thursday Evenings: 7:00 P.M.

A covered-dish meal will be provided on Sunday,
after the morning service, in the fellowship building.

Visitors are invited!

The lessons will be available for viewing on our website at:

<http://www.bellviewcoc.com/meeting.html>

Website

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com>

Sermons

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/sermons.html>

Bible Classes

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/classes.html>

Gospel Meeting

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/meeting.html>

Defender

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/defender.html>

Beacon

<https://www.bellviewcoc.com/beacon.html>

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/BellviewCoC>

YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BellviewChurchOfChrist>

Michael Hatcher's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/52MichaelH>

Defender and Beacon

Available Via Email

Send your email address to:

bellviewcoc@gmail.com

Beacon

Bellview Church of Christ

4850 Saufley Field Road

Pensacola, FL 32526

850-455-7595

Michael Hatcher, Editor

bellviewcoc@gmail.com



Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Burleson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Please Remember

October 18

Birthdays and Anniversaries Get-together will be held in the zone room after the afternoon service.

Weekly Services

Sunday

Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

Bellview Church of Christ

Bishops: Paul Brantley
Michael Hatcher

Minister: Bill Busch
Tim Cozad