

Formula for Living

What is our time on this earth all about? What is the value of our lives? The best answer is the establishment of a personal relationship with God through His Son and living in obedience to Him. There have been countless books written on the subject of life and its meaning, and everyone, I suppose, has an answer. One of the best essays I have read – and I have seen it in several publications – is by an anonymous author. Just read:

If I can throw a single ray of light across the darkened pathway of another; if I can aid some soul to clearer sight of life and duty, and thus bless my brother; if I can wipe from any human cheek a tear, I shall not have lived my life in vain while here.

If I can guide some erring one to truth, inspire within his heart a sense of duty; if I can plant within my soul of rosy youth a sense of right, a love of truth and beauty; if I can teach one man that God and heaven are near, I shall not have lived in vain while here.

If from my mind I banish doubt and fear, and keep my life attuned to love and kindness; if I can scatter light and hope and cheer, and help remove the curse of mental blindness; if I can make more joy, more hope, less pain, I shall not have lived and loved in vain.

If by life's roadside I can plant a tree, beneath whose shade some wearied head may rest, though I may never share its beauty, I shall yet be truly blest – though no one knows my name, nor drops a flower upon my grave, I shall not have lived in vain while here.

That's a pretty good formula for living, right? As we make our journey along this road of life, we should remember: The measure of a man's character is not what he gets from his ancestors, but what he leaves his descendants.

--Beecher Hunter