

“Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”
(John 12:25)

You may have been put off by Jesus saying that believers must “hate” their life. This is not to be taken as self-loathing. This would have been understood as a poetic way of drawing out a contrast: infatuation with self-glory and self-preservation kills, but sharing life and investing in the well-being, honor, glory, and joy of another results in more blessings on my own life. And, again, in John 15:13 we see the emphasis on love. For John, love is not just a feeling of warmth and affinity for another; it is above all a disposition of care and generosity for others, giving and serving, even in self-sacrificial ways (John 13:1). This counteracts the work of the Thief who desires to steal, kill, and destroy life through hatred, fear, resentment, and darkness. Jesus has opened a path to new life, but it must come through death.

Action & Prayer - Today, as we come before our LORD in prayer, let us be reminded we should always come before his altar with a SACRIFICE - we should never come empty handed. Romans 12:1-2 tells us to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God - we sacrifice our TIME (in worship & praise, service, prayer), TALENTS (spiritual gifts), TREASURES before the Lord. Take time out to be still in His presence and wait upon him by MEDITATING ON His word. Also, let's come to gather together as the Ekklesia (God's ruling assembly) at the Tuesday night United Vision Prayer tomorrow night.

Link to all devotionals: iccbrisbane.org/journaling