OUR EXAMPLE OF ABUNDANT LIVING

(1 Peter 2:21)

I. A positive outlook.
   a. Jesus knew what it was like to suffer.
   b. Jesus knew what it was like to be mistreated.
   c. Jesus knew what it was like to be alone.
   d. Jesus knew what it was like to cry.
      i. John 11:35.
   e. Jesus knew what it was like to be rejected.
   f. Think of how Jesus approached His death.
      i. Whenever you read of Him mentioning His death, He almost always
         mentioned His resurrection or His return.
   g. There was plenty that went on in the life of Jesus to make Him the saddest
      person in the world.
   h. Jesus did not let the bad things in His life or the bad things He saw or the sadness
      of sin keep Him from maintaining a positive outlook.
   i. By being positive in the face of sin around us, we can make sure that we don’t
      give in to the temptations of apathy or indifference.
   j. Be honest with yourself: who would you rather be around?
      i. Someone who is positive or negative?
      ii. If we don’t like to be around negative people, we have to realize people
         don’t want to be around us if we are negative.
   k. Having a positive outlook doesn’t mean we aren’t aware of or that we ignore sin.
      i. Jesus did neither of those things.
      ii. Jesus pointed out sin and He rebuked sin but He kept a positive outlook.
   l. Remaining positive should not be difficult when we remember that Christians
      win in the end, no matter what happens here on earth.

II. Proper relationships.
   a. From the very beginning of the earthly ministry of Jesus, He sought the
      companionship of good people.
   b. Think of those we would call His friends.
      i. The apostles (Judas started out well).
      ii. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
      iii. Mary Magdalene and probably many others of whom we aren’t aware.
   c. 1 Corinthians 15:33.
Psalm 1:1 – the progression of sin is influenced by being with the wrong people.

Every one of us is aware of the power of influence.
  i. We often talk of how we are to be an influence to others.
  ii. We must remember that those around us influence us as well.

Our best friends should be Christians.

The one you choose to be your spouse should be a Christian.

Seek out people who will help us get to heaven and not hinder us.

III. Be people oriented.
  a. Jesus had more to do in this life and less time to do it than any of us.
    i. He only lived to be 33.
    ii. His ministry was only 3 ½ years.
  c. Despite having much to do, Jesus was concerned for people and showed it.
    i. On His way to restore life to a little girl, He stopped to encourage a woman who had been racked with suffering (Matthew 9:20).
    ii. He had time for blind Bartimaeus.
    iii. He had time for Zaccheus.
  d. The life of Jesus was one of stress and business in the labor of God, but He always made time for people.
  e. If we want to be able to influence people, we must make time for them.
  f. People went away from meetings with Jesus feeling important and cared for.
  g. How do they leave meetings with us?
  h. Stress often comes when we focus solely on ourselves and being people oriented can help keep some of that stress away.

IV. Personal care.
  a. Our Lord, though abused by others, never abused His own body.
    i. He cared for Himself physically.
    ii. Jesus never developed any habits that were harmful to His body.
  b. Have you ever stopped to think how much Jesus walked while on earth?
    i. At least four times in His 3 ½ year ministry Jesus walked from Capernaum to Jerusalem.
    ii. That walk alone is nearly 100 miles.
    iii. Jesus walked nearly everywhere He went.
    iv. If I’m not mistaken, the only time we read of Jesus riding an animal is when He entered into Jerusalem.
  c. Paul wrote that bodily exercise profits a little (1 Timothy 4:8).
    i. We need to take care of our bodies.
    ii. We do this so we can use our bodies for as long as possible in service to God.
  d. Jesus also believed in rest (Mark 6:31).
    i. Lack of rest is a cause of stress.
ii. Lack of rest also leaves us more vulnerable to temptation.

V. **Private devotions.**
   b. Our Lord spent time with the Father in prayer.
   c. One writer said, “He had already been in heaven, and He was going back in a few days, but He felt the need every day on earth to be with God.”
   d. If Jesus needed to spend His time with the Father, what about us?
   e. God needs to speak to us every day through His word.
   f. We need to speak to God every day through prayer.
      i. Jesus taught us to pray and not to give up (Luke 18:1).
      ii. Paul told the Thessalonians to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
   g. These can be family devotions or personal devotions, but time must be spent with God.
      i. This allows us to better understand His presence in our lives and His love for us.
      ii. It causes us to rely on Him more and truly cast our cares on Him instead of bearing them ourselves (1 Peter 5:7).

VI. **A persistent life.**
   a. Jesus was tempted in every area we are, but He did no sin (Hebrews 4:15).
      i. In other words, Jesus had no regrets.
      ii. When He said, “It is finished”, He could say that with no remorse about what He had done while on earth.
   b. Little will keep us from the abundant life like a defiled conscience.
      i. Think of those times when you knew there was sin in your life.
      ii. Was your life overflowing and joyful with God?
      iii. How about when you knew there was sin in your life and you kept on sinning?
      iv. How about when you knew you were lost and kept on being lost?
      v. We know the answer to that: life was miserable and not abundantly overflowing the way God wants us to live.
   d. Our lives need to be in a persistent state of seeking and doing God’s will.
   e. If we are busy doing the will of God, the temptations of life have a lot less chance of pulling us away.
   f. You and I are to walk in newness of life, being new creatures: let’s live like it.

Sermon outline from an unknown source