



[Ecclesiastes 12:13-14](#)

(13) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (14) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

King James Version

Despite our humble, modest circumstances, are we living abundant lives? Despite our lack of toys, a mansion on the lake, or a Rolls-Royce on our driveway, are our lives better than we ever expected? Or do we feel that life has passed us by, serving us the dregs instead of the wine? If so, could it be that we need a change of perspective?

J. Paul Getty, at the time perhaps the richest man in [the world](#), said, "I hate and regret the failure of my marriages. I would gladly give all my millions for just one lasting marital success." He possessed the money to live whatever lifestyle gave him the most satisfaction, but at the end of his life, he came to realize that a good, enduring marriage meant more to him than riches. He died feeling like a failure at what life is really all about.

King Solomon lived a similar life of wealth, power, and privilege. The [book of Ecclesiastes](#) chronicles his lifelong experimentation with various lifestyles, projects, possessions, hobbies, and creature comforts. What does he ultimately conclude about how humanity should live?

Solomon's conclusion is totally compatible with Jesus' statement in [John 10:10](#). Jesus did not come promising us wealth, prestige, and authority on earth (although He does promise us these things in the world to come), but He came with good news from His Father about how to attain [eternal life](#) ([John 6:40](#)). Like Solomon's, His message is very clear, ". . . if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" ([Matthew 19:17](#)).

The big "secret" is that the abundant life is contained in the keeping of God's

commandments, in tandem with the [grace](http://www.theberean.org) supplied through [Jesus Christ](#). John writes, "And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through [Moses](#); grace and [truth](#) came through Jesus Christ" ([John 1:16-17](#), ESV). Jesus came to give man the means by which he could properly keep God's commandments; His grace puts commandment-keeping in its proper place. Once a person is living this way—what Paul calls "walk[ing] in the Spirit" ([Galatians 5:16-25](#))—his life is naturally going to be abundant because he is no longer under the penalties and curses that breaking the law exacts (see verse 18). His life will be pleasing to [God](#), and He will bless him, now and in the life to come ([Psalm 19:11](#); [Proverbs 11:18](#); [Matthew 6:33](#); [Revelation 11:18](#); [22:12](#))!

Are our lives abundant? Are we reaping the rewards of following God's way of life? Have we begun to enjoy the benefits of keeping God's commandments?

Every [Sabbath](#), we enjoy the benefits of keeping it holy ([Exodus 20:8-11](#)), including physical rest, time with our families, [fellowship](#) with our brethren, and communion with and instruction from God. It may not be "exciting," but it is living as He wants us to live.

The same is true of keeping the other commandments. If we have happy families and marriages, we are reaping the benefits of keeping the fifth and seventh commandments (verses 12, 14). If people find us trustworthy and honest, we are being rewarded for keeping the eighth and ninth commandments (verses 15-16). If we are content in our circumstances, our [peace](#) of mind derives from practicing the [tenth commandment](#) (verse 17).

Moreover, if we see spiritual growth taking place, and if we are producing good fruit in our lives, we are experiencing the results of a strengthening [relationship with God](#), encapsulated in the first four commandments (verses 2-11; [Matthew 22:37-38](#)). Such a relationship with our Creator is *the key* to abundant living, for there is no greater, more satisfying accomplishment than that among men!

When we reach this point, we will have learned the godly perspective, and we will know that the life of God we live is definitely abundant living—no matter what our circumstance ([Philippians 4:11](#))!

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[Are You Living the Abundant Life?](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
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