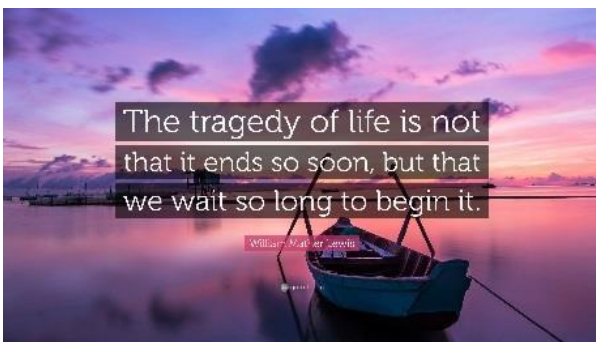


St Paul's Anglican Parish of Ipswich CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Living Life To The Maximum

Delivered by Rev'd Michele Knight



“The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it” - W M Lewis.

Jesus said *“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly”.*—John 10:10

A veteran mountain climber was sharing his experiences with a group of novices preparing for their first major climb. He had conquered many of the world's most difficult peaks, so he was qualified to give them some advice. “Remember this,” he said, “your goal is to experience the exhilaration of the climb and the joy of reaching . . . the peak. Each step draws you closer to the top. If your purpose for climbing is just to avoid death, your experience will be minimal.”

I see an application to the Christian's experience. Jesus did not call us to live the Christian life just to escape hell. It's not to be a life of minimum joy and fulfillment, but a life that is full and overflowing. No matter what happens to us...we are lucky. We are lucky to be alive...to have problems and challenges... to have strengths and weaknesses... people who love us...a roof over our heads. Focus on the positive. Know that you are very, very fortunate, and things could indeed, be much worse! Therefore, treat yourself as a lucky person today and every day.

We have never been promised a life without trouble, but we have been promised a life which can be lived more abundantly (John 10:10). When we walk by faith, we will see each day of the Christian life as a challenge to be met. Do not live minimally. Live life to the maximum! Climb that mountain with confidence!

Prayer - Lord, may we live the life you have given fully and abundantly, every day, knowing that though our time on earth is fleeting, You go with us all the way.