

January 12, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Heb. 10:34-35 *You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.* (NIV)

One of my fondest memories as a young boy was watching the old TV show, '**Guns**smoke' with my Grandpa. There was one episode that still hangs on in my mind. In this particular show, there was a bounty hunter who had come to town looking for an outlaw. He was totally motivated by finding this man and would do anything to catch him (which of course in these old westerns meant to kill him). He had come to the marshal's office and ripped down a poster with the culprit's face and name on it. It was a 'wanted' poster. Across the top of the poster were these four bold words: **Wanted, Dead or Alive**. This meant something very important to the bounty hunter. He could either capture the outlaw or kill him. Either way, he would get the bounty that was on the outlaw's head. But this bounty hunter seemed to find pleasure in luring the wanted man into a gun fight. Now hang on with me for just one more moment. You might be wondering where I am headed with this thought, but it is clear to me. It is that the Lord wants us '**dead and then alive**.' He desires for us to die to ourselves and be made alive in Him. It is only by dying to our own pride, sin and selfishness that we can then find the abundant life that He has prepared for us.

The writer of Hebrews makes the statements he does in this passage because: *you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions*. He then gives us this great encouragement: *So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded*. The wanted poster would have a dollar amount printed in large numbers. This was the motivation for the bounty hunter. But for us, our motivation is that we have a better and lasting possession. It is abundant and eternal life with the LORD Himself! That is worth everything!

Dear LORD, it is in the giving of ourselves to You that we find real life. You have so much in store for us through the sacrifice of Your Son. Help us to keep our eyes on You. You are our all in all. In Jesus Name, Amen