

# *Life Lessons*

## *“Life Worth Living”*

It seems that most of mankind is afflicted with a disease the symptoms of which involve constantly looking over our shoulders to see if we have found a really satisfying reason to live. As a result we are constantly tempted to “have the newest,” be “the greatest,” and do “the most!” As amazing as it may seem, few of us are ready to ask, *“What is missing within us that drives us to constantly look beyond ourselves for satisfaction in life?”*

One man in history that did not suffer from any lack of satisfaction was Mathew Henry (1662 – 1714). At his death he spoke these words to a friend:

**You have been asked to take notice of the sayings of dying men – this is mine: that a life spent in the service of God and communion with Him, is the most pleasant life that anyone can live in this world.**

For some today these words will lack the pizzazz expected in this age of the sound-byte driven media. For others it will seem, well shall we say, “quaint,” when compared to the “thrill-a-moment” mindset advertised throughout the land. However, for the few willing to be truly objective, there are two vital questions...

- **How do the thrill-seekers face death?**
- **What final words can we quote from their final moments?**

Some might say Matthew Henry’s life was lacking. Others may say, “Drab.” Other than having an intensely intimate relationship with his parents – his dad in particular, other than being a deeply loving husband and father to ten children, other than being sustained by his faith through the death of three of his children, other than sustaining an richly meaningful pastorate of over twenty-five years in one church, other than writing commentaries (which are still a mainstay in nearly every Christian library now three hundred years later) on every book in the Bible from Genesis to Acts and having outlines of the rest by the time of his death, other than spending approximately ten hours a day in study while also preaching seven times a week most of his adult life, I cannot think of any reason why we might not take a huge life lesson from Henry! But, if any of these achievements has appeal to you, maybe you can begin by simplifying the pursuits of your life.