

Psalms 90:10 (NKJV)

10 The days of our lives *are* seventy years; And if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, Yet their boast *is* only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

- If I could paraphrase this verse, basically the psalmist is saying “YOLO”.

The phrase You Only Live Once is nothing new. In fact we see recorded incidents of it being used as far back as 1774. However, it seems that in just the past few years it has risen to a level of prominence in mainstream youth culture and this is due mainly to a song released by Canadian rap singer, Drake, entitled “The Motto”. The chorus of this song has a line in it which says, “Now she want a photo, You already know though, You only live once - that’s the motto ... YOLO”. Along with YOLO, this song also promotes such things as going to clubs to pick up women, rolling and smoking marijuana, drinking hard liquor “by the liter”, one night stands, anal sex, oral sex, hiring hookers, and more!

That is the problem with “YOLO” in culture today. It is often used in conjunction with reckless and sometimes even illegal behavior. It’s used as an excuse for stupidity. Here is a perfect example of that: Aspiring rapper Ervin McKinness (early twenties) tweeted about driving 120 MPH (193 KMPH) while drunk and used the hashtag “YOLO”. His tweet read: “Drunk ... going 120 drifting corners #YOLO.” Just minutes later, McKinness and four other passengers wrecked the car and it claimed all five of their lives.

This is an extreme example, but nonetheless, people use YOLO as license for stupid behavior all the time.

According to Topsy, a Twitter analytics company, in the 14 months after the release of Drake’s song “The Motto”, the word YOLO had appeared 36.6 million times in tweets, and a good percentage of them included young people doing something dangerous or risky.

When YOLO is preached, it always causes a reaction. When people come to the realization that they only have one life and it is short, they don’t just sit on their hands and fritter their time away. They tend to get up and do something because they don’t want to waste their life. Unfortunately that typically manifests itself in negative ways for most people.

In fact, when YOLO is preached, there are **two** different reactions from two different groups of people. People that don’t know Jesus react different than people that do know Jesus. When sinners come to the realization that they only have one short life, they tend to do stupid things. Hence Drake’s song, hence Ervin McKinness’ tweet, etc.

The following scripture describes the sinners response to YOLO.

Ephesians 4:18-19

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

- Sinners don't have understanding, they are alienated, they're ignorant and their blind.

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

In the sinners mind, if all we are going to be is worm food someday, we might as well do things that feel good. I have come to challenge that thought, because after you die you are more than just a rotting corpse. Your *body* will die someday, but your *soul* will live on for all eternity. There *is* a Heaven and there *is* a Hell. There *is* a God who loves you and wants to save you from eternal fire. He wants you to come live with Him. He'll give you a brand new mansion and a new body that will never get sick or never feel pain. And all that He asks is that we give our one and only life to Him.

So the sinner reacts to YOLO by doing whatever feels good to them. They are so hungry for fulfillment in life, and all they know to reach for is the things that gratify their flesh fleetingly.

But Christians, the rest of us, have come in contact with Jesus and we know that we have more to live for than just 70-80 years here on Earth. There is a Holy city that we are going to live in for all eternity so we react differently to YOLO. This is how we react:

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NKJV)

15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.

16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

That is the reaction of a Christian to YOLO. We don't throw our lives away because we have something to live for! We want to make it to Heaven someday so we live carefully, we don't act thoughtlessly, we pursue God's will!

Young people, we need to be reminded tonight that we only have one life to live and it is short! We need to realize that our life on Earth is the shortest part of our existence. We need to be sure that we “redeem the time” and use it for God!

James 4:14

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

- Your life is like .0000 repeating. That’s the percentage your life is of your eternal existence.

Psalms 102:11

11 My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.

Job 9:25 (NKJV)

25 “Now my days are swifter than a runner; They flee away, they see no good.

Psalm 90:12

12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

We only have one life to live, and our time is short. Every second that passes is another second lost. Every day gone by is another day we will never get back. I realize that I’m preaching to a group of young people between the ages of 12 - 25 that think they have all kinds of time left, but hear the Word of the Lord tonight, your life is short, and you don’t get a do-over ... YOLO.

Video

This video is based on a life expectancy of 79 years. From age 15 to 79 there are 23,360 days, but after you take away all the time used for stuff in life, you are left with only 2,740 days. That is only 42 days per year. That might seem like a lot but that is only 8.5% of your time. It is only 14.25 hours per week; little more than two hours per day.

Out of 24 hours, on average you have **two** that you can use however you want. So the question is: What will you do with your time today?

It’s the thought of tomorrow that robs us of today.

Romans 14:11-12

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

When you stand before God and you begin to tell Him how you spent your time, what will you be able to tell Him?

- Video games, surfing the web, movies, friends, sports, clubs at school, etc. OR prayer, witnessing, Word, etc.

You can't change what you did or didn't do yesterday and you can't live tomorrow, all you have is today. How will you live it?