

The Good Life! All the best!

Ah! The good life. Call it what you want: El Dorado, Paradise, Shangrila, heaven on earth. Sound investments; high yields; you're secure! Now for the delicious pay off: retirement. Enjoy! You earned it.

Four possibilities

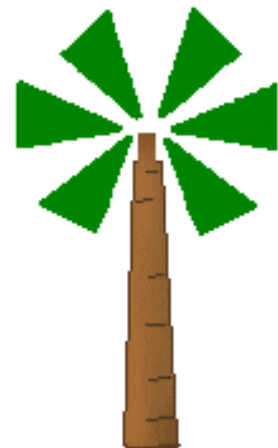
As you embark on the good life usually found in warm and sunny climates, four things could happen to you.

Paradise. When you finally get there, it's not there. This is *not* at all what you thought it would be. You've been fooled by your own expectations. Plus you run out of money.

Paradise. When you finally get there, it's there. Now what do you do? Tourists might call this locality quaint and charming, but you and all the locals have to live there.

Paradise. You finally get there, but so is everybody else—and their donkey! This is getting away from it all?

Paradise. You finally get there, but nobody else is there. It's just you and all that diamond sand and glaring sun. Now what?



Adios kids' inheritance!

Here's a sticky question. How do you bankroll your good life? To pay for paradise you could always spend your children's inheritance. But they don't find that idea particularly funny. One thing nobody finds funny is this unalterable fact: The good life—whoever manages to find and fund it—is way too *short*. Like this man was about to find out.

A rich fool

Two brothers were disputing over their father's estate, and they appealed to Yeshua to arbitrate. He refused.

"Don't be greedy," he cautioned. "Owning a lot of things won't make your life safe." To make his point, he told them a story. A rich man's farm produced a big crop and he said to himself, "What can I do? I don't have a place large enough to store everything." Later, he said, "Now I know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. Then I'll say to myself, "You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself." But God said to him, "You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?"

On another occasion, some of Yeshua's detractors who loved the good life scoffed at him. He met their eyes and said, *"The things that most people think are important are worthless as far as God is concerned."* Let's not miss the point. God doesn't want us to just have a good life; he wants us to have a better life, the best there is. Eternal life is yours for the asking.

Yes! I want the best.

Dear Lord, how can there be a paradise on earth when we all keep sinning? I know that in my life I have wanted what's good and have tried to live the right way, yet many times I thought, said, and did things that were wrong. Please show me your way to the good, everlasting life that is free for the asking. I believe your promised one, Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel, died for my sins and arose from the dead. Because of that I can be forgiven and can live forever in your paradise.

