WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?
Program 220
We've Been Remade
by Ernest O'Neill

It's very easy to get discouraged, isn't it? You do your best at your job or you do your best at your studies. And it doesn't seem to be turning out right. Or you're not getting the grades that you hoped for. Or you're not getting the appreciation that you hoped for or the promotion. Or you work at home and you do your best and you hope that the children and your husband will appreciate you, but somehow it seems that nobody bothers very much with what you're doing. And it doesn't seem to be significant to anyone.

So it's very easy to feel discouraged in this present life and to sense that you're not really achieving very much. And to at times wonder, why bother? Why even try? That's the kind of situation we've been discussing now for several programs at this time on this station. And the way we have started to talk about it is in relationship to a bigger world, not just your own small world or my own small world, but the bigger world itself, the world that encompasses the whole universe. And what we have been discussing is the purpose of this whole universe: why it's all here and of course why you're here and why I'm here.

And what we have seen, those of you who have listened over the past months will remember is, that this universe was created by an intelligent mind. And that's why there are so many orderly things in it. And so many clear signs of design in it. You probably often wondered why, when you looked at a flower, the petals are so beautifully arranged and so symmetrical. And when you look at a bird flying you see how carefully designed it is for flight. And how we have even followed a great many of the aerodynamic principles that we find in birds when we design our airliners.

And so we see that there is great order and design in the universe and that it had to be made by an intelligent mind. We have further, you remember, talked of the way that that intelligent mind seems to have expressed Himself down through the years and how He especially has done it most clearly, through the man, Jesus of Nazareth who lived in the first century of our era. And that this man said He was actually the Son of the intelligent mind behind the universe. That's what He said. He said, "I and my Father are one. I was with my Father before the world was created."

And the reason we believe that is because of His remarkable life; He lived perfectly. Because of the ethical tenets that He taught and transmitted. He did actually love everybody, as He said we should. And He, Himself destroyed death and came back from being dead and lived again for another month, so that not only His friends could see it but many of this enemies could see it. And they wrote about that in books and we have the manuscripts of those books today in our museums and can prove that He actually did live and die and live again as we have read. This is recorded in books like the Bible and other history books.

And this man, Jesus of Nazareth, explained that the reason you feel so discouraged, and the reason so many of us feel that we've missed out or we're making a mess of things is not so much a failure to be appreciated by our family or to be approved of by our peers or to receive good grades in college, but because we are living utterly unreal lives. We're living as if we made ourselves. We're living as if we're responsible for ourselves. We're living as if we have this life to do what we want with. We're living as if we live this life and then go out like a light at the end of it.

He said, no. My Father, He made you. He put you here. He put you here with a free will, like He has, Himself, so that you would use your free will to begin to take the attitudes that He has and to choose the things that He would choose, so that you'll become like Him during your years here on earth. And then will live with Him forever in the larger universe. And that's why you're here. And the reason you feel such a sense of failure or a sense that you're missing it, is you're not living that way. You're living as if He doesn't exist. You're living as if it's all up to you. He wants you to live trusting Him, depending on Him.

And this man Jesus said, "Look at the lilies of the field. They don't toil or reap and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of much more value than a sparrow?" And then He followed it up and said, "Look at the flowers of the field. They don't toil nor reap nor gather into barns. And yet Solomon in all his glory is not arrayed like one of those flowers." So, your Father will provide for you -- sometimes through wages, sometimes by other means -- if you will concentrate on doing what He's put you here to do.

Well, many of us have tried to do that. And we've started to attempt in the mornings when we get up not to think of all the impossible tasks that lie before us. Not to think of all the dreadful things we have to do. But we've started to try to look up to God in our thoughts and to think, "God, you've put me here. You have this day planned. You know what's going to happen. You are all seeing. You are the intelligent One that knows all things. So you know what I'm going to meet today, so I thank you for it in advance. I trust you. I know you love me and I know you're going to provide for me and you're going to help me through this day, so I thank you that I can relax and enjoy the ride." And we've tried to do that.

But we find other feelings coming in. Feelings of anxiety. Feelings of fear. Feelings of tension. Feelings of strain. And we barely get some of those words out of our mouth or get some of those thoughts through our minds but we begin to worry; be anxious. We begin to think, ah yes, but there's this job I have to do that I don't like doing. There's this person that I have to speak to that I don't like encountering. And before we know it, we're back in the old worry-wart attitude towards the day. Now what Jesus explained to us was that we're bound to do that because our fore-fathers have been living like that for generations and they bred that into us.

And there's no way in which we can rid ourselves of that attitude. That attitude of selfishness and self-dependence and that attitude that insists on its own will and wants its own way and insists on its own rights. That whole attitude of self-creation that is so unreal has been bred into us for generations. But Jesus explained, "Listen. My Father knew that. He foresaw that you would be like that. He foresaw that you would be unable to trust Him. That you would be unable to begin to depend on Him the way you should."

"He saw that you would be unable to break from the past. To break from the whole atheistic attitude that has been bred into the human race for centuries. And He foresaw that and He remade you in Him, in Me. He remade you completely. And that's why I have come to earth; to die and to rise from the dead to demonstrate to you what my Father did to you, in Me, before the foundation of the world." And you may be surprised at that. And yet, you shouldn't be. You shouldn't be surprised that the Creator of the universe is well able to foresee what you would do. And to provide for it, without adversely affecting your free will.

Because of course our computers can do it. Our computers can tabulate and compute what is most likely to happen with

tremendous certainty. Now if they, mere machines that we humans have made, can do that -- how much more can the personal mind of the intelligent Creator do that. He was able to perceive and to foresee what you would become. And then to do what we can do, even with our football games on TV. We can give instant replay, can't we? We can give instant replay. And that's what He has done. He has provided instant replay. He has foreseen what we would do.

Then He has destroyed us in His Son, Jesus, and remade us again and yet allowed us to play the original life that we wanted to play out, so that we can see it here in this present life; can see what it's like and then can turn from it and can take advantage of the change that He wrought in us before the foundation of the world. In fact, God has changed you in His Son Jesus. That's part of what it means when Jesus uses words like, "you must be born again". That's what He means. "You have to be started all over again and My Father has started you."

"So believe that and you will find it coming true inside you. Not simply acknowledge that My Father is real and that He looks after you but acknowledge that He has actually changed you in Me and has made you a new creation. And that creation is capable of trusting Him and living as it was meant to."

Let's talk a little more tomorrow about this great miracle.