Sermon: (John 12.25)

**Whoever loves his own life will lose it; whoever hates his own life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

Daily Express articles: Nov 1, 2017 - Dying is an inevitable part of life and there is no way humans will be able to biologically live forever, scientists have confirmed.

Dec 4, 2017 - The first person who will live to be 1000 years old has already been born according to an ageing expert who is striving for eternal life.

Aside from question about whether anyone would want to live 1000 years, is living forever = eternal life?

Scientists dream of perpetual motion machines or boundless energy, but nothing is everlasting.

Lovers want their passion to burn forever; your favourite clothes do wear out; batteries need replacing.

Some see heaven as everlasting life of bliss, others fear endless hymn singing! TEXT.

[1] What does loving your own life look like?

 When choices are to be made, the principle question is – “what is in it for me?”

 Seeing things from your own point of view. An inward focus = a lowly shrivelling away. TEXT.

[2] What does ‘hating’ mean?

 It is Aramaic, and generally means ‘the opposite’; in this case means an outward focus – “how can I help
 others?” Seeing things from others’ point of view, which leads to love. TEXT.

[3] What is eternal life?

Two things:

(a) Life that does not end in death – Jesus shows this in his resurrection.

(b) Life *now* with an eternal quality – God-filled, love-filled, through his Spirit. Not magic, but seeing things from God’s point of view. Welsh mining valleys seen from hill top are less oppressive.

Old Christian Aid slogan: We believe in life before death – that is a purpose worth living and dying for. TEXT.