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### ONLY ONE LIFE

*Avis B. Christiansen, 1895-1985*

*“And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:15)*

**Find your purpose and fling your life out into it; and the loftier your purpose is, the more sure you will be to make the world richer with every enrichment of yourself!**

~Phillips Brooks

**How tragic it is to see the great number of talented young people who waste their lives on transient things instead of investing them in that which is eternal. Yet this choice must be made by every individual: Will I commit my life to the highest and best – God and His service – or will I settle for that which is self-seeking and cheap? The results of these two styles of living are obvious; merely observe the difference between the quality of life of those who have engaged in self-indulgent, useless living and those who have spent their time faithfully serving God with a concern for the spiritual and physical needs of others. One leads to disillusionment and the other to contentment.**

**Since it was published in 1937, this thoughtful hymn by Avis B. Christiansen and Merrill Dunlop has been widely used of God to challenge scores of young believers with the importance of committing their lives completely to God’s glory and service. Both Mrs. Christiansen and Mr. Dunlop have made other notable contributions to gospel hymnody with their many fine hymns.**

These words reinforce and amplify the oft-quoted statement. “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.” In that song book this hymn first appeared under the title “The Fight for Faith.”

- *Only one life to offer-Jesus , my Lord and King; only one tongue to praise Thee and of Thy mercy sing; only one heart’s devotion-Savior, O may it be consecrated alone to thy matchless glory, yielded fully to Thee.*
- *Only this hour is mine, Lord-May it be used for Thee; may ev’ry passing moment count for eternity; souls all about are dying, dying in sin and shame; help me bring them the message of Calv’ry’s redemption in Thy glorious name.*
- *Only one life to offer-Take it, dear Lord, I pray; nothing from Thee withholding, Thy will I now obey; thou who hast freely given Thine all in all for me, claim this life for Thine own to be used, my Savior, ev’ry moment for Thee.*

*Amazing Grace* – 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions  
By Kenneth W. Osbeck

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

