

Don't Waste Your Life
Victory Family Church 10/21/17

What do you want to be able to say at the end of your life?

Paul said this, **6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. -2 Timothy 4:4-8 (NASV)

Jesus: 28 After this, Jesus, knowing[a] that all things were now accomplished,... He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. -John 19:28-30 (NKJV)

What do you want other people to say about your life?

People will summarize your life in one sentence, pick it now. -John Maxwell

Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us....

"First, I was dying to finish high school and start college. And then, I was dying to finish college and start working. And then, I was dying to marry and have children. And then, I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school, so I could go back to work. And then, I was dying to retire. And now, I am dying ... and suddenly, I realize I forgot to live..."

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." -Mae West

Stop Wasting Your Life on Stuff That Doesn't Matter

Why do people waste their lives?

- **They think they'll live forever**
 - "Everybody knows they're going to die, but nobody believes it. If we did, we would do things differently. -Morrie Schwartz
 - **6** Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. **17** He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' **18** Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. **19** And I'll sit back and say to myself, 'My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!'" **20** "But God said to him,

'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for? 21 "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God." Luke 12:16-21

Survey: What would you do if you could do it again: I'd risk more, reflect more, and **do more things that would live on after I'm gone.**

They think things will fulfill them outside of Christ

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?[] Is anything worth more than your soul? -Matthew 16:26

How do you not waste your life?

Fully Devoting Your Life to God

>>29 "And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. 30 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. 31 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. 32 "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom -Luke 12:29-32

John 2:5 - "His mother said to the servants, ***"Whatever He says to you, do it."***

The Lordship Question: Is Jesus the Lord of your life or just your savior? When He's Lord, you give every area of your life over to Him, not just some.

The people God uses in the most significant ways are people who keep saying yes!

"God can do amazing things and take you on an amazing journey in your life if you let him. If you surrender your life." -Mike Steidel

What is on the other side of your yes? You have NO idea! **See what God can do through you!**

This is the answer to all of your questions:

- If he's dealing with you to give your life to Him, do it
- If he's dealing with you to forgive, do it
- If he's dealing with you to take a courageous step, do it
- If he's dealing with you to stop going to certain places, do it
- If He deals with you to stop drinking, do it

- IF He deals with you to serve somewhere, do it!

Isaiah 6:8-9 - 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" 9 He said, "Go, and tell this people..."

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Raise a Family of World Changers

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."** Joshua 24:15

You don't find a great godly family, you build one! Get a vision for that!

***"Wise people are builders – they build families, business, marriages, and communities through hard work and sacrifice, little by little, one day at a time."* Proverbs 24:3 (Passion Version)**

Study of Two Families:

Illustrating the priority Jonathan and Sarah Edwards placed on training their children, A.E. Winship's A Study in Education and Heredity (1900), revealed the Edwards' descendants included:

1 U.S. Vice-President,
3 U.S. Senators,
3 governors,
3 mayors,
13 college presidents,
30 judges,
65 professors,
80 public office holders,
100 lawyers and
100 missionaries.

This same study examined a family known as "Jukes."

In 1877, while visiting New York's prisons, Richard Dugdale found inmates with 42 different last names all descending from one man, called "Max." Born around 1720 of Dutch stock, Max was a hard drinker, idle, irreverent and uneducated.

Max's descendants included:

7 murderers,
60 thieves,
50 women of debauchery,
130 other convicts.
310 paupers, who, combined spent 2,300 years in poorhouses, and
400 physically wrecked by indulgent living.

The "Jukes" descendants cost the state more than \$1,250,000.

"The greatest thing you do may not be something you do, but someone you raise." -Andy Stanley

Give Your Life Away

16 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. -1 John 3:16

Want to change the world? Start caring for what God cares for: The Lost!

Do you care about the lost?

>> 2 My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief 3 for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. **I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.** -Romans 9:2-3

"They need God." -Judy Steidel

Ordinary people are the only kind God uses. There are not great men and women of God, there is only a great God!

Ministry is not a job, ministry is who you are, where you are. -Bruce Bickel

- 92% of Jesus ministry took place outside of the 4 walls

"Judy's life was an invitation, an invitation to joy, to hope to God. Often the word, "world changer" is mentioned when recalling this special lady. It was a prophetic declaration she spoke over her children from their earliest years that has become a banner over their lives. The term alone suggests something on a large scale with impressive impact, but with Judy, it was personal, it was individual, it was one conversation at a time. She

noticed you. She drew you out. She celebrated you and what you cared about. And somehow, you were more fully YOU in being with her. She changed the world - her world - the small corners that go unnoticed world because she understood that she had been entrusted with treasures. Yes, she was a world changer. She changed mine."

-Patty Leach

Just be YOU!

Start Praying: God, help me be closer to you today, mold me to be more like you, and use me in the lives of others today.

Live with the Knowledge that There is Always Hope in Christ

>> Three things will last forever--faith, hope, and love--and the greatest of these is love. -I Corinthians 13:13

>> Lord, help us realize the brevity of this life, and the beauty of the next. -Max Lucado

In one of my favorite Sermons, Pastor Carter Conlon of Times Square Church said this:

"Wouldn't it be great if we all got to the end of our life and say it's been all God, it's been all grace, all goodness, all glory, all mercy, all of Christ and nothing of me. Isn't it wonderful if you get to the end and whether you've preached to ten or ten million it doesn't really matter, but you get to the end of the journey and your children say mom and dad, how did such change come into your life. How did you become the person you became? At the end of the journey you don't have a list of books for them to read. You don't have a stack of proverbs. You don't have a whole list of how-to's. You have only one name on your lips. Only one victory. Only one direction. Only one God..."

When we get to the end of this journey, there won't be anyone there with a formula or a plan, but they'll be whole lot of people just speaking the name of Jesus Christ. All through Heaven and Eternity when people ask how did you get here, how did you get through? Jesus! I don't need any other name. I don't need any other plan. -Carter Conlon

My prayer for you is that you will give your life away for the God who gave His life for you. Then and only then will you live a life where you can look back on and say, "I lived."