

Choosing Your Future

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life – Message 1

TO RESOLVE: to decide, settle, determine, purpose

RESOLUTION: a firm determination to do something

MOSES' 4 LIFE-SHAPING CHOICES

HEBREWS 11:23-27

1. _____

“By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”

Heb. 11:24 (NIV)

“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good...”

Rom. 12:2 (Ph)

“Our purpose is to please God, not people. He is the one who examines the motives of our hearts.”

1 Thes. 2:4 (NLT)

“I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

2. _____

“Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.”

Hebrews 11:25 (NIV)

“We can have joy in our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope.”

Romans 5:3-4 (NCV)

“These present troubles are quite small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!”

2 Cor. 4:17 (NLT)

3. _____

“Moses regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”

Heb. 11:26 (NIV)

WHAT THE WORLD VALUES

- **Popularity (Prestige & Power) vs. 24**
- **Pleasure “the pleasures of sin” vs. 25**
- **Possessions “the treasures of Egypt” vs. 26**

“The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live forever.”

1 John 2:17 (TEV)

WHAT GOD VALUES

- 1. _____ is more valuable than popularity vs. 24**
- 2. _____ are more valuable than pleasure vs. 25**
- 3. _____ is more valuable than possessions vs. 26**

4. _____

“By faith, Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible.”

Heb. 11:27 (NIV)

HOW DO I KEEP MY RESOLUTIONS?

- _____

“Let us be concerned for one another, and help one another show love and do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other...”

Heb. 10:24-25 (TEV)

• _____

“Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be dismayed. Therefore, I have set my face like a stone, determined to do his will. And I know that I will triumph!”

Isaiah 50:7 (NLT)

Learning to Live Wisely

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life – Message 2

“Wisdom is more precious than rubies. Nothing else you could ever want is as valuable.”

Prov. 8:11

“Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do.”

Prov. 4:7

“If you become wise, you’ll be the one to benefit. But if you scorn wisdom, you’ll be the one to suffer.”

Prov. 9:12

SOLOMON: THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM

“Wisdom is good for the soul. Get wisdom and you’ll have a bright future.”

Prov. 24:14 (TEV)

“Those who get wisdom do themselves a favor, and those who love learning will succeed.”

Prov. 19:8 (NCV)

“Treasure wisdom, and it will make you great; hold on to it, and it will bring you honor.”

Prov. 4:8 (NCV)

“Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life.”

Prov. 9:11 (NLT)

“Wise people have great power.”

Prov. 24:5 (NCV)

“Wise people will gain an honorable reputation.”

Prov. 3:35 (TEV)

“Wise people’s lives get better and better.”

Prov. 15:24 (NCV)

“Wisdom offers you long life, as well as wealth and honor. It can make your life pleasant and lead you safely through it. Those who become wise are happy; wisdom will give them life.”

Prov. 3:16-18 (TEV)

“Nothing will stand in your way if you walk wisely, and you will not stumble when you run.”

Prov. 4:12 (TEV)

“Learn to be wise, and develop good judgment.”

Prov. 4:5 (NLT)

HOW DO I LEARN TO BE WISE?

Listen to God’s Word Everyday

“Start with God. The first step in learning is bowing down to God.”

Prov. 1:7 (MSG)

“It is the Lord who gives wisdom; from him come knowledge and understanding.”

Prov. 2:6 (TEV)

“A wise person is hungry for truth, while the fool feeds on trash.”

Prov. 15:14 (NLT)

Enlist Friends who Challenge Me

“Spend time with the wise and you will become wise, but the friends of fools will suffer.”

Prov. 13:20 (NCV)

“Fools think they need no advice, but the wise listen to others.”

Prov. 12:15 (NLT)

Ask Questions & Accept Correction

“Intelligent people are always open to new ideas. In fact, they look for them.”

Prov. 18:15 (NLT)

“If you stop learning, you will forget what you already know.”

Prov. 19:27 (CEV)

Remember & Reinforce What I Learn

“Listen, and I’ll teach you what the wise have said. Study their teachings, and you will be glad if you remember them and can quote them.”

Prov. 22:17-18 (TEV)

“Don’t lose sight of my words. Let them penetrate deep within your heart, for they bring life and radiant health to anyone who discovers their meaning.”

Prov. 4:21-22 (NLT)

Now Do It!

“Don’t deceive yourselves by just listening to the Word; instead, put it into practice. If you listen to the word, but don’t put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves ...but once they walk away, they forget what they look like. But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it and you don’t forget it, but you put it into practice—you will be blessed by God in what you do!” James 1:22-25 (TEV)

Embracing the Vision: The Purpose Driven Life

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life – Message 3

“It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for... part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone.”

Eph. 1:11 (Mes)

“Everything, absolutely everything... got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him.”

Col. 1:16 (Mes)

1. GOD PLANNED ME _____

“You God created everything, and it is for Your pleasure that they exist and were created!”

Rev. 4:11b (NLT)

“The Lord takes pleasure in His people.”

Psalm 149:4 (GN)

“Long before He laid down earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of His love.”

Eph. 1:4 (Mes)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Matt. 22:37-38 (NIV)

“I don't want your sacrifices – I want your love! I don't want your offerings – I want you to know Me!”

Hosea 6:6 (LB)

THE 1st PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: _____

“Some people have missed the most important thing in life – they don't know God.”

1 Tim. 6:21 (LB)

“People who don't know God are always worrying.”

Matt. 6:32a (CEV)

2. GOD FORMED ME _____

“God’s unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure.”

Eph. 1:5 (NLT)

“God has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God’s own family.”

1 Pet. 1:3 (LB)

“That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.”

1 Tim. 3:15 (NCV)

“Love your spiritual family.”

1 Peter 2:17 (Mes)

THE 2nd PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: _____

“We belong to each other and each of us needs all the others.”

Rom. 12:5 (NLT)

3. GOD CREATED ME _____

“From the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him--and all along He knew who would--should become like His Son.”

Rom. 8:29 (LB)

“We look at the Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created.”

Col 1:15 (Mes)

“In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.”

Phil. 2:5 (NCV)

“As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him.”

2 Cor. 3:18b (NLT)

THE 3rd PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: _____

“Some people have such shallow soil of character that when their emotions wear off and difficulty arrives, there’s nothing to show for it.”

Mark 4:17 (Mes)

4. GOD "SHAPED" ME _____

"You shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb."

Ps. 139:13 (Mes)

Spiritual Gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

"God made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which He planned in advance for us to live our lives doing."

Eph. 2:10 (NCV)

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings."

1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

THE 4th PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: _____

5. GOD MADE ME _____

Jesus: "In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world."

John 17:18 (Mes)

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Pr. 29:18 (KJV)

"Those who embrace My ways are most blessed."

Pr. 8:32 (Mes)

"Jesus included everyone in His death so everyone could be included in His life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own."

2 Cor. 5:15 (Mes)

"Open your eyes and see how good God is! Blessed are you who run to Him."

Ps. 34:8 (Mes)

Jesus: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me for real rest...and you'll recover your life...and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matt. 11:28-30 (Mes)

“It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from—if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open.”

Acts 10:35 (Mes)

A PRAYER OF PURPOSE

Dear God, thank You for creating me and loving me. I want to fulfill the purposes that You created me for. So starting today, I really want to get to know and love and trust You. I want my life to bring You pleasure and I want to become a part of Your family. Help me to grow more like Your Son Jesus, and to use my life to follow and serve You. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for me. In the weeks ahead, help me to understand Your vision and mission for the rest of my life.

Why You Need a Church Family

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life – Message 4

FIVE BENEFITS OF A CHURCH FAMILY

1. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ MY LIFE AROUND GOD.

“You were planned for God’s pleasure.”

“Christ’s love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center...”

2 Cor. 5:14 (Mes)

“It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.”

Phil. 4:6-7 (Mes)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: _____

“You have six days to do your work, but the seventh day of each week is holy because it belongs to Me. No matter where you live, you must rest and come together for worship.”

Lev. 23:3 (CEV)

“They worshipped together regularly at the Temple courts...”

Acts 2:46a (LB)

“We celebrate as we worship You.”

Ps. 68:4b (CEV)

2. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

“You were formed for God’s family.”

“...Christ makes us one Body and individuals who are connected to each other.”

Rom. 12:5b (GW)

“The Body we’re talking about is Christ’s body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of His body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn’t amount to much.”

Rom. 12:5 (Mes)

“The person who loves God must also love other believers.”

1 John 4:21 (GW)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: _____

“Be devoted to each other like a loving family.”

Rom. 12:10 (GW)

“You are members of God’s very own family... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”

Eph. 2:19 (LB)

HOW CAN I JOIN THIS CHURCH FAMILY?

1. Choose to belong! CLASS 101: Discovering Membership

“First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God’s will, they gave themselves to us as well.”

2 Cor. 8:5 (TEV)

2. Show your commitment by baptism.

“This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized. Each of us is now a part of his resurrection Body.”

1 Cor. 12:13 (Mes)

“That’s what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.”

Rom. 6:3 (Mes)

“Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are My disciples.”

John 13:35 (LB)

3. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

“You were created to become like Christ.”

“Christ’s Body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole Body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Eph.. 4:16 (NLT)

“Their purpose is to prepare God’s people to serve, and to build up the Body of Christ... until we become mature, and measure up to Christ, who is the standard.”

Eph. 4:12-13 (GW)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: _____

“God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love — like Christ in everything.”

Eph. 4:15a (Mes)

“Don’t lose a minute in building on what you’ve been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others.”

2 Peter 1:5 (Mes)

HOW CAN I GROW?

- **CLASS 201: Discovering Spiritual Maturity**
- **Foundations, Word, Journey, or Men’s Bible Studies**
- **JOIN A SMALL GROUP!**

“Those who believed... were baptized and added to the church... They joined with the other believers and committed themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship... They worshipped together regularly at the Temple courts AND met in small groups in homes for communion, and shared their meals with great joy.”

Acts 2:41-42, 46 (NLT/LB)

To grow I need...

Large group worship - at the “Temple courts”

Small group fellowship - in a home! (Acts 5:42)

“When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.”

James 1:3-4 (NLT)

4. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ SOMETHING BACK.

“You were shaped to serve God.”

“God has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.”

Eph. 2:10 (LB)

“We work together as partners who belong to God.”

1 Cor. 3:9a (NLT)

“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.”

Eccl. 4:9 (TEV)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY _____

“Complete the ministry God has given you.”

2 Tim. 4:5b (NLT)

CLASS 301: Discovering My Ministry

“God will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you’ve shown your love to Him by caring for other Christians.”

Heb. 6:10 (NLT)

“Keep busy in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever useless.”

1 Cor. 15:58 (TEV)

5. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ GOD’S MESSAGE.

“You were made for a mission.”

“Through Christ, God made peace between us and Himself, and then God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with Him.... He gave us this message of peace. So we have been sent to speak for Christ.”

2 Cor. 5:18-20 (NCV)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY _____

“You are... God’s instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you.”

1 Peter 2:9 (Mes)

“Live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ... standing strong with one purpose as you work together as one for the faith of the Good News.”

Phil. 1:27 (NCV)

CLASS 401: Discovering My Mission

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours that very first day you heard and understood the truth about God’s great kindness to sinners.”

Col. 1:6 (NLT)

Jesus: "I assure you that everyone who has sacrificed anything for My sake and for the Good News, will receive in return, a hundred times over..."

Mark 10:29-30 (NLT)

**A Great Commitment
to the Great Commandment
and the Great Commission
will produce Great Christians
and a Great Church**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

"LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matt: 22:36-40

THE GREAT COMMISSION

"GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations, BAPTIZING THEM in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and TEACHING THEM TO DO everything I have commanded you."

Matt. 28:19-20

SADDLEBACK'S PURPOSE STATEMENT

To bring people to Jesus and membership in His family develop them to Christlike maturity, and equip them for their ministry in the church and their life mission in the world, in order to magnify God's name.

Enabling the Vision: Purpose Driven Giving

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life – Message 5

“Tell people to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they’ll be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.”

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (LB)

GOD’S 5 ETERNAL INVESTMENT FUNDS (Purpose Driven Giving)

1. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS TREASURY FUND.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

Matthew 6:19-20 (NIV)

“Give up your lust for money...Then the Almighty himself will be your treasure!”

Job 22:24-25 (NLT)

HOW?

By using some of my money to: EXPRESS WORSHIP.

“Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income...”

Proverbs 3:9 (LB)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

WHAT KIND OF GIVING IS “WORSHIP GIVING”?

• It is UNDESIGNATED GIVING.

“You may not take back what you have unconditionally dedicated to the Lord.”

Leviticus 27:28 (TNV)

• **It is given WHEN AND WHERE I worship.**

“On every Sunday, put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for the offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn.”

1 Corinthians 16:2 (LB)

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first.”

Deuteronomy 14:23 (LB)

2. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS MUTUAL FUND.

“Love one another with mutual affection.”

Romans 12:10 (RSV)

HOW?

By using some of my money to ENCOURAGE FELLOWSHIP.

“Share what you have with God’s people who are in need. Show hospitality.”

Romans 12:13 (GN)

“Think of ways to encourage one another with outbursts of love and good deeds.”

Hebrews 10:24 (NLT)

WHY?

“This service of giving not only helps the needs of God’s people, it also brings many more thanks to God and it is a proof of your faith. Many people will praise God because you obey the Good News of Christ—the gospel you say you believe—and because you freely share with them.”

2 Corinthians 9:12-13 (NCV)

“When you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible.”

3 John 1:5 (Mes)

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.”

Psalms 133:1 (NCV)

3. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS GROWTH FUND.

“Grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 3:18 (LB)

HOW?

By using some of my money to: ENHANCE MY CHARACTER

“The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin.”

Prov. 10:16 (NLT)

“Buy truth and don’t sell it for love or money; but wisdom, buy education, buy insight.”

Proverbs 22:23 (Mes)

“Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength... and does you no good? Listen, and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul!”

Isaiah 55:2 (NLT)

“It is better—much better—to have wisdom and knowledge than gold and silver.”

Proverbs 16:16 (TEV)

“Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.”

Romans 12:1 (Mes)

4. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS EQUITY SERVICE FUND.

“They gave as much as they were able and even more than they could afford. No one told them to do it. They pleaded with us to let them share in this service for God’s people.”

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NCV)

HOW?

By using some of my money to: EXPAND MY MINISTRY

“... I want you to excel in this gracious ministry of giving.”

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)

“We must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20:35 (NRSV)

“The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.”

Proverbs 11:24 (Mes)

“Give to the poor and you will never be in need. But If you close your eyes to the poor, many will curse you.”

Proverbs 28:27 (TEV)

“When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back.”

Proverbs 19:17 (TEV)

“Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, ‘God bless you! Stay warm! Eat well!’ but then you don’t give them any food or clothing. What good does that do? Faith that doesn’t show itself by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless.”

James 2:15-17 (NLT)

5. GOD WANTS ME TO INVEST IN HIS GLOBAL FUND.

“The Lord said ‘... I’m setting you up as a light for the nations so that My salvation becomes global!’”

Isaiah 49:6 (Msg)

By using some of my money to: EXTEND MY MISSION.

“Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

Luke 16:9 (NIV)

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN GLOBAL P.E.A.C.E. PLAN

WHAT? HOW?

Plant & Partner with Churches
Equip Servant Leaders
Assist the Poor
Care for the Sick
Educate the Next Generation

Purpose Driven
Led by Small Groups
Attacks the global giants
Networks church to church
Sends to the whole world

“We must support believers who go on trips like this so that we can work together with them in spreading the truth.”

3 John 1:8 (GW)

“You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing...”

2 Corinthians 9:13 (GW)

God says, “Ask, and I will give you all the nations; the whole earth will be yours!”

Psalm 2:8 (TEV)

HOW CAN I AFFORD TO MAKE THESE INVESTMENTS?

“If you are untrustworthy about handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”

Luke 16:11 (NLT)

“God gives seed to the farmer to plant. He will also give you ‘seed’ and multiply what you generously plant. In your lives He will increase the things you do that have His approval.”

2 Corinthians 9:10 (Dtv)

THE PRAYER OF AGUR

“Lord... don’t let me become too poor or too rich. Just give me just what I need. For If I have too much, I might forget about you; and if I don’t have enough, I might steal and disgrace your name.”

Proverbs 30:7-9 (CEV)

“If you wait for perfect conditions, you’ll never get anything done!”

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)

THE KEY PURPOSE DRIVEN GIVING

“...they first gave themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives.”

2 Corinthians 8:5 (Mes)

“The people were overjoyed that the leaders gave so generously and wholeheartedly to the Lord. King David was also overjoyed, and he praised the Lord while the whole assembly watched. David said, “Greatness, power, splendor, glory, and majesty are Yours, Lord, because everything in heaven and on earth is Yours. The kingdom is Yours, Lord, and You are honored as head of all things. You rule everything. You hold power and strength in Your hands, and You can make anyone great and strong. So our God, we thank You and praise Your wonderful name. But who am I and who are my people that YOU ENABLE US to give so generously? Everything comes from You. We give You only what has come from Your hands.”

1 Chronicles 29:9-14 (GW)

How to Get Ready to Be Used By God

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life – Message 6

“Give yourselves completely to God... so you can be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes.”

Rom. 6:13 (LB)

STEP 1: PURIFY

“If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for His purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.”

2 Tim. 2:21 (NLT)

“Joshua told the people, ‘Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you.’”

Josh. 3:5 (NLT)

“If we confess our sins to God, He will keep His promise and do right: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.”

1 John 1:9 (TEV)

STEP 2: SANCTIFY

Sanctify = to dedicate for special purposes

“Don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.”

1 Cor. 6:19-20 (NLT)

“You made my body, Lord; now give me sense to heed Your laws.”

Ps. 119:73 (LB)

“Athletes practice discipline and self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.”

1 Cor. 9:25 (NLT)

STEP 3: SIMPLIFY

“We should remove anything from our lives that would get in the way... and hold us back.”

Heb 12:1 (NCV)

• _____

“Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the kingdom of God.”

Luke 9:62 (LB)

“As Christ’s soldier, don’t let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in His army.”

2 Tim. 2:4 (NLT)

Jesus: “Those who want to come with Me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses, and follow Me.”

Matt. 16:24 (GW)

• _____

“No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money.”

Matt. 6:24 (NIV)

STEP 4: FORTIFY _____

“Strengthen yourselves so that you will live here on earth doing what God wants, not evil things people want.”

1 Peter 4:2 (NCV)

“Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit.”

1 Tim. 4:7b (LB)

• STUDY

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.”

2 Tim. 3:16-17 (NLT)

• READ

“Do yourself a favor and learn all you can.”

Pr. 19:8 (TEV)

• WRITE OUT

“Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have.”

1 Peter 3:15 (NCV)

• SUPPORT

“Encourage one another and build each other up.”

1 Thess. 5:11 (NLT)

STEP 5: APPLY _____

“Our people must learn to apply themselves to doing good deeds and helping others who have urgent needs, so they won’t be living idle, unproductive lives.”

Titus 3:14 (Amp)

“Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless.”

Isaiah 1:17 (Mes)

“Stay true to what is right and God will bless you and use you to help others.”

1 Tim. 4:16 (LB)

