

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 39

Balancing Your Life

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

The Great Commission is MY Commission.

- Christ said to go out into ALL the world!
- 1) **Shift from Self-Centered Thinking to Other-Centered Thinking**
- 2) **Shift from Local Thinking to Global Thinking**
- 3) **Shift from “Here and Now” Thinking to Eternal Thinking**
- 4) **Shift from thinking of Excuses to thinking of Creative Ways to Preach**

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

- Psalms 67:2 (NLT)
- 2) *May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere.*

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

What steps can I take to change myself into a World Class Christadelphian?

- It's not a matter of MOVING to a foreign country... It's a matter of THINKING what you can do to spread the Gospel to the whole world
- *Balancing Your Life isn't doing equal parts of good things and bad things...
Balancing Your Life is doing equal parts of ALL the good things!*
- Too often we use the phrase, “Well, you just have to be balanced” as a way of saying, “Well, you don't have to follow the word THAT closely!”
- To be balanced isn't to allow compromises into your life
 - To be balanced is to make sure that you are giving equal effort to all FIVE of God's Purposes for you, and not just concentrating on one or two

- It's wonderful if one or two of God's Purposes come natural to you...
 - But, you need to cultivate all of them so that you grow
- You were planned for God's pleasure, so your purpose is to love God through **Worship**
- You were created to serve, so your purpose is to show love for others through **Ministry**
- You were made for a mission, so your purpose is to share God's message through **Preaching**
- You were formed for God's family, so your purpose is to identify with the Ecclesia through **Fellowship**
- You were created to become like Christ, so your purpose is to grow to maturity through **Discipleship**
- Keeping all FIVE of these in balance is not easy
 - We naturally emphasize the purposes that we feel most passionate about and tend to neglect the others
- Ecclesias do the same thing
 - Sometimes we get too wrapped up in **Discipleship** and our **Worship** gets stale
 - Sometimes we concentrate too much on **Fellowship** and our **Preaching** fades
- Here are four suggestions to help you keep balanced:
 - 1) **Talk it through with a spiritual partner**
 - The best way to internalize anything is to discuss it with others
 - Proverbs 27:17 (CEV)
 - 17) Just as iron sharpens iron, friends sharpen the minds of each other.
 - Our minds are sharpened and our convictions are deepened through conversation
 - Find a Godly Friend (preferably not your spouse), and discuss what we've talked about over the past 38 lessons
 - Ask "So what?" and "What now?"
 - Probe what God's Word means to you, to your family, to your Ecclesia

- Philippians 4:9 (NLT)

9) Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.

- Read a book with your Spiritual Partner – Discuss it's contents chapter by chapter

- Most importantly... Pursue personal Bible study

- Ask your partner to prepare some questions for you, as you do for them, and quiz each other

2) Give yourself a regular spiritual check up

- Evaluate yourself periodically

- 2nd Corinthians 13:5 (Message)

5) Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.

- God places a high value on self evaluation

- If you don't do it, He will do it for you!

- We are weekly reminded:

- 1st Corinthians 11:28 (KJV)

28) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

- Be honest and be consistent

- You will be amazed how much things in your life can change quickly...

3) Write down your progress in a journal

- We've mentioned this several times...

- The advantages of writing things down is HUGE!

- This will reinforce your progress in fulfilling God's Purposes for you

- This is not a diary of daily events, but a record of Life Lessons that you have learned (often painfully), and don't want to forget

- We remember what we record
 - Writing helps clarify what you are thinking, and helps you clearly see what God has been doing in your life
- *“Thoughts disentangle themselves when they pass through your fingertips”*
- It is encouraging to look back at the questions you had about your life 5 years ago, and see how God has clearly guided you through those issues that you thought were impassable
- This isn’t without Biblical precedence:
- Numbers 33:2 (NLT)
 - 2) At the LORD’s direction, Moses kept a written record of their progress.
- Don’t just write down the pleasant things
 - Look at what David recorded:
 - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
- Feel free to record your fears, your doubts, and your struggles with God
 - You will be encouraged in the future when you see your progress over them
- Our greatest lessons come out of pain, so definitely record those, no matter how hard
- Problems help you to focus on God, draw close to others in fellowship, build Christ-like character, provide you with a ministry and give you a testimony to share with others...
 - Every problem fulfills all Five Purposes
- Psalms 102:18 (CEV)
 - 18) Future generations must also praise the LORD so write this for them
- You owe it to your kids, and to their kids, to spare them some of the heartache you went through by having them learn from your mistakes
 - Write them down, and...
 - Don’t be afraid to share them
- Which leads us to number 4...

4) Pass on what you know to others

- The best way to learn is to teach
 - If you want to keep growing, the best way is to pass on what you know to others
- Proverbs 11:25 (MESSAGE)
 - 25) The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.
- Now that you understand God's Purpose for you, it is your responsibility to share that with others
- Share these truths with your children, your neighbors, and your coworkers
- The reason we pass on what we learned is not to make ourselves look better, but for the Glory of God
- God doesn't only want us to live out His Purposes for us, but he wants us to show others how they can do it also
 - He wants the whole world to be filled with the Glory of the knowledge of Him
- THAT is how we can give God the Glory...

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:

*Balancing Your Life isn't doing equal parts of good things and bad things...
Balancing Your Life is doing equal parts of ALL the good things!*

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

- Ephesians 5:15 (NIV)

15) *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,*

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

Which of these four activities can I start THIS WEEK?