

How to Make It For The Long Haul

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I. Introduction.

II. To end well you must start off well.

A. Lot made a choice by the sight of his eyes. (Genesis 13:5) Lot and Abraham were both righteous men. (Genesis 15:6, 2 Peter 2:8) He was lead astray by what he saw.

B. Beware riches.

1. Being rich is not sinful. We are to be careful riches do not govern our decisions. (Proverbs 38:9)

2. The world is set up by and large for our desire for things.

C. Beware of strife and pride. (Proverbs 15:4, 13:10)

D. God is no respecter of persons - we reap what we sew. (Galatians 6:7-8, Job 4:8, Matthew 5:47, 7:24)

E. Keep short accounts.

F. Love. The Navigators was built on this principle.

G. Trust God.

H. Make strategic, not opportunistic decisions. (John 7:27)

J. The principle of cause and effect. (Proverbs 13:20)

1. The one associating with wise will be wise.

2. Make a habit of asking questions.

III. Principles needed to make long-range decisions - lay out life according to the seasons.

A. Spring.

1. You make certain decisions in the spring of your life.

2. Discourage young people to harvest too much - spare some of the enjoyment for later.

B. Summer.

1. Major interests should be chosen.

2. You can re-choose if you need to though.

C. Autumn.

1. Secure your holdings.
2. Be real - secure the fruits. (Proverbs 20:4)

D. Winter.

1. Beware of quitting.

IV. Balance. (Luke 2:52)

A. Wisdom - intellect.

1. Studying should start early.
2. Studying should continue.

B. Stature - physical.

1. Stay in shape.
2. Watch your diet.

C. God - spiritual.

1. Keep the disciplines and stay out of sin.
2. We need a way to get into the Word and keep us in it.
3. Disciplines correct other areas of our life.

D. Man - social.

1. Watch your testimony.
2. One can lose his testimony easily.
3. You have to care what people think because you are trying to win people.

V. Question and answer.

A. Avoiding burnout.

1. One has to be convinced in one's own heart what God would have him do.
2. We have to have certain priorities.
3. There are some things that need to be done that we do not need to do.

B. Evaluating strategic opportunities.

1. If we do not do what we have to do, then we cannot do what we want to do.
2. The world will tell us how to think, but we have to think how we want to think.

C. The main thing that sidetracks people from finishing well.

1. Leaving God out the picture.
2. Sexual matters.
3. Money.
4. Bitterness.
5. Being open to rebuke helps us to stay in line.

D. The possibility of being a Christian and not studying God's Word and praying. (1 Corinthians 15)

1. Salvation is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
2. Jesus' death gives us the victory over the penalty of sin.
3. Jesus' resurrection is giving us the victory over the power of sin. (Romans 5:10)
4. Jesus' return will save us from the presence of sin.
5. We can be saved from the penalty of sin and also be disobedient.

C. Clarifications.

Application questions

1. Explain the seasons of life and how they can be valuable for planning.

2. How does the balance we are to keep in Luke 2:52 challenge you concerning your present schedule?

3. What challenges kept Lot from finishing well, and how can you see these distractions affecting you a times? How can one better follow Abraham as he finished well?
