

Preparing for the Long Haul

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I. Introduction.

- A. Today we live by faith but we will not in eternity, so as we get to the end of our faith we get to the end of our faith.
- B. Things that make a difference: a proper attitude towards balance, authority and cause and effect.

II. Balance.

- A. Without balance we get into serious trouble.
- B. Many bad things result from making too much of a good thing.
- C. Matthew 7 is a guideline - do unto others as you would have them do to you.
- D. Balance is a value judgment. (Isaiah 32:17)
- E. See things in perspective.
- F. Study Bible passages that seem to be in contradiction to get some balance.
 - 1. Pleasing men and pleasing God. (Galatians 1:10, Acts 5:29, Daniel 6:10, Daniel 3:18, 2 Corinthians 8:21, 1 Peter 2:15, Matthew 17:27, 1 Timothy 5:8)
 - 2. Learning from God and learning from men. (1 John 2:27, Timothy)
 - 3. Verses you do not know what to do with you put down the middle.
 - 4. Saving money and not saving money. (Matthew 6:19-20, Proverbs 6:6, Matthew 6:32-33)
- G. Seasons—you do certain things at certain times.
 - 1. In spring you plant.
 - 2. In summer you cultivate.
 - 3. In fall you harvest.
 - 4. In winter you enjoy the fruits.
- H. The seven laws of the harvest. (Proverbs 20:4)
 - 1. We only reap what we sew.

2. We reap the same kind as we sew.
3. We reap in a different season than we sew.
4. We reap more than we sew. (Proverbs 22:8)
5. We reap in proportion to what we sew. (Luke 9:23, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 10:35-36)
6. We reap the whole harvest of good only if we persevere.
7. We cannot do anything about last year's harvest but only about this year's.

III. Authority.

IV. Cause and effect.

Application questions

1. Why is balance important in the Christian life?

2. Which Scriptural study on balance was most helpful to you? Explain.

3. Memorize Luke 9:23 and write it below. How does this verse relate to harvesting?
