

How to Finish Well

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Genesis 13.
- B. There are basic things built into a life that determine whether one ends well.
- C. We have to get right to end right.

II. We must be wise with money.

- A. The characters under discussion - Abraham and Lot - were both righteous men. (2 Peter 2:8)
- B. Abraham was under orders to leave his home for the promise of God.
- C. They both lived in Ur of the Chaldeans - a city that had many conveniences.
- D. We have to beware of riches in any society. (1 Timothy 6:10, Mark 4:19)
- E. It rains and shines on the just and unjust alike. (Galatians 6:7-8, Proverbs 15:25, Jeremiah 7:4)
- F. Regardless of where you come from, the laws of God are the same.

III. Keep short accounts between people.

- A. Lot did not take the opportunity to go to Abraham.
- B. Be subject to your elders and one another. (1 Peter 5:5)
- C. Be clothed with humility.
- D. We ought to get along with one another because we are Christian.
- E. Abraham was not always pushing for the best deal - he stepped in faith because he was not afraid of being taken advantage of. (Psalm 133:1, Matthew 7:12)
- F. We are to choose the one thing - sitting at Jesus feet and listening to Him. We are to make this decision. (Luke 10:42, John 1:12)

IV. We are to not make choices merely by outward appearances.

- A. Lot made a poor choice by the sight of his eyes. (John 7:24, 1 Samuel 16:7)
- B. There is a way that seems right, but it is not right. (Proverbs 13:12, 16:2, Isaiah 53:6)
- C. Most of the time we simply want our way. (Hebrews 3:10)

D. Sodom's iniquity was pride, wealth, idolatry and a failure to give to the poor. (Ezekiel 16:49)

E. Lot lost his testimony with his own son-in-laws.

F. God cannot keep his side of the agreement unless we keep ours.

G. Lot was righteous, but things did not end well for him because of his choices.

Application questions

1. Why is it that being righteous is not enough to "finish well" as the speaker sees it?

2. What does it mean to keep short accounts with people?

3. How would your life look different if you made choices less by outward appearances? Give an example.
