**Don’t Waste Your Life!**

**Mark 9:30-48**

**Psalm 116:15** “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

**Mark 8:35-36** “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?”

**Matthew 6:19-20 19** “Do not store up for **yourselves** treasures **on earth**, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures **in heaven**, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For **where your treasure is**, **there your heart will be** also.

**Three ways** to live a life that God will reward.

1. Live your life **in service** to others. **Verses 30-37**

* The path that leads to true greatness, in the eyes of God, **begins at the cross**.
* Jesus is our **great example**.
* Jesus said, [He was] “going to be betrayed into the hands of men.”
* The word for *betrayed* in Greek means ‘to deliver up’ or ‘to hand over.’ It is used of the God the Father delivering His own Son over to be killed by His own sovereign will.

**Acts 2:23** “This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.”—Peter

* The path of the Christian life takes us through valleys and deserts. It involves pain and suffering. But Jesus promises **eternal reward** in the end.

**2 Timothy 4:3** “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teaches to say what their itching ears want to hear.”—The Apostle Paul

* Philanthropy without Christ, has **no eternal value**. None!

**Don’t waste your life!**

1. Live your life **devoted to Christ**! **Verses 38-41**

* Whatever you do **in the name of Jesus** comes with a promise of eternal reward.
* One day, all believers will stand before Jesus Christ at what is known as the Judgment Seat of Christ—a place of honor, glory, and reward.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** “For we (believers) must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”—The Apostle Paul

* **Five crowns** which believers may receive at this ‘Awards Ceremony:’

1. **The Crown of Victory** (1 Cor. 9:25-27)—This crown will be given to believers who turn away from the pull of the world and truly live for Christ.
2. **The Crown of Rejoicing** (1 Thess. 2:19)—This crown awaits those who are soul-winner’s for Christ.
3. **The Crown of Righteousness** (2 Timothy 4:8)—There are those who live every day with an eye to the sky watching and waiting for the return of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whom they long to see because they love Him so much.
4. **The Crown of Life** (James 1:12)—This is a very special crown that will be awarded to believers around the world who endure humiliation, deprivation, bitter persecution, and even death, for their faith in the Lord Jesus.
5. **The Crown of Glory** (1 Peter 5:4)—This is a unique crown that awaits those who faithfully teach the Word of God and shepherd God’s people (Pastors).

**Don’t waste your life!**

1. Live your life **pursuing holiness**. **Verses 42-48**.

* We are to be holy, just as Jesus is holy.

**Colossians 3:1-6 “**Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden in Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him **in glory**. **Put to death**, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”—The Apostle Paul

* **Three things** to help you live a life of holiness.

1. Set your hearts and minds on things above. Do this by spending much time in prayer and reading God’s Word.
2. Get rid of, or at least build a hedge of protection around, anything in your life that causes you to sin: your TV, your computer, your cell phone, certain places and certain people.
3. Join a God-fearing, Spirit-filled, Word-preaching church and develop friendships with godly men who can and will hold you accountable.

**Don’t waste your life!**