

POSTSCRIPT: More thoughts on sharing your faith (from last week)

- Simply inviting people to church is a great way to start. After all, making disciples is one of the roles of the Body!
- Studying the Bible with unbelievers is easier than you might think. Invite them to investigate Jesus for themselves. For great resources on this topic Google: "*Becky Pippert study scripture with unbelievers.*"
- As western consumers we are sometimes tempted to sell the gospel like toothpaste ("*it whitens, it brightens!*"). The benefits of the gospel are enormous, but the heart of the gospel is about Who you get, not what you get. Jesus turns away those who are just after the benefits program (Luke 14:25-34).

Q: This is the last week in our "Next Steps" series. What other things have we discussed that a disciple of Christ does?

A true disciple...stewards their resources.

Q: It has been said that many things that cause anxiety in life are due to a shortage of time or money. Would you agree? What are some examples?

Q: God is the owner of "your" money (Haggai 2:8 *'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty; Job 41:11 Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me.*). Do you think about God being the owner of your time? Why or why not?

Ephesians 5:15–16 (ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

James 4:14 (ESV) yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

1 John 2:17 (ESV) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

John 9:4 (ESV) We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

1 Corinthians 3:13–15 (ESV) each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Discipleship: Next Steps
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Westgate Church of Christ

Proverbs 26:13–14 (ESV) The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!” ¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.

Proverbs 5:11–13 (ESV) and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, ¹² and you say, “How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! ¹³ I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.

Luke 10:41–42 (NIV) “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

MORE DISCUSSION:

1. What would you define as “wasted time” for the Christian?
2. What is the “one necessary thing” that Martha needed in Luke 10? What other things do we choose?
3. What other resources besides time and money have you been given? How do you “steward” those?
4. How do you think God expects you to steward your resources? What do you think his reaction will be if you don’t use what He has given you for good? (cf. the parable of the talents, Matt 25).
5. God doesn’t want you to waste your life. Does that mean the Christian walk is one endless grind of religious obligation? (cf. Ex 20:8-11). What can make it feel that way?
6. To be a disciple means to be disciplined. You have to choose the intentional Christian life. If you leave your spiritual life to chance, what will likely happen?
7. How can a group of other Christians be helpful in living a disciplined Christian life?
8. Which is better?
 - a. Consistently doing some small steps (I’m going to read my Bible for 5 minutes every day and call one friend that needs encouragement)
 - b. “Going whole hog” (this week I will memorize the Gospel of Mark and I will visit everyone in Extendicare)
9. Sometimes we are all spiritually dry and “just don’t feel like it.” When that happens what should you do?