

It All Starts with God

A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree. – Proverb 11:28 (MSG)

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord ... They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit. – Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)

Even though WE are the ones who will ultimately benefit, we must NOT focus on ourselves.

I. It's not about Y _____; It starts with God!

A. Focusing on ourselves will N _____ reveal the purpose of life.
"It is God who directs the lives of his creatures; everyone's life is in his power." - Job 12:10 (TEV)

B. We were made for God. God wasn't made for us!
"Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life." – Romans 8:6 (MSG)

If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find it. – Matt 16:24-25 (CEV)

II. GOD IS

- A. The S _____ Point (Foundation)
- B. The Focal Point
- C. The Ending Point
- D. The Sustaining Strength

The purpose of your life is much bigger than you. It is by God, in God, for God.

III. What is a Properly "Balanced" Christian Life?

- A. Common Misconceptions of a "Balanced Christian Life"
"Traditional" and "Equal Partners"
- B. What does the Bible say is the Correct Perspective?
For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. – Philippians 1:21

IV. The Goal is G _____, not a life that is "Balanced" from OUR perspective.

- A. We were created to G _____ God in all things.
"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." – 1 Corinthians 10:32 (ESV)
- B. 1) When we do this, we F _____ I the purpose for which we were created.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)
- B. 2) When we don't do this, we are like a fish out of water.
If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find it. - Matthew 16:24-25 (CEV)
- C. All to Jesus