

## Career Planning and Life Decisions

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

### ➤ Intro:

- time of year when young folks graduate from college or high school, commencement speeches, makes us think about our careers and the future

- lesson geared toward young folks: Career Planning and Life Decisions – 5 suggestions

### ➤ Decide what you want most in life – career planning and life decisions, what is your top priority

- **illus.:** finally realized a few years ago I can't do everything I want to life

- can't reach all possible goals, not even spiritual
- have to pick and choose, and be content

- **common goals:**

- get rich / not worry about money / get out of debt
- get married
- retire early
- be famous
- invent something important

### ➤ - Christian's goals:

- **Col. 1:6, 10** constantly bearing fruit and increasing, walk worthy manner, pleasing God in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work

- **this is most important**, nothing else in life matters if we're not serving God as we should

- **Tit. 2:14** zealous for good deeds

- **the reason** Jesus redeemed us

### ➤ - our behavior reflects our attitude – things we do reflects what we think

- **Matt. 6:31-33** worldly things (money) not important, spiritual things are important

- **our focus** is on the spiritual, and we're content with whatever physical things God gives us

### ➤ - **Ja. 4:14-15** everything else is "if the Lord wills"

- **happy and content with whatever** the Lord will may be

- **behavior / attitude:**

- **our work in God's kingdom is the most important** thing in our life

- **study** God's word to grow and mature, teaching others, assembling with the saints, personal work

- **participate as a member** of the congregation outside of regular assemblies, not just "go to church"

- **make time for spiritual things** 1<sup>st</sup> and secular things 2<sup>nd</sup>

- **if a friend asked**, "what's most important to you," we would say, "God, and doing His work"

- **as Christians, we want to please God and serve Him more than anything else**

- **we seek His kingdom above everything else**, and we're satisfied with the physical blessings He gives us

- **this attitude is seen** in everything we say and do – **career planning, life decisions**

➤ **Decide what kind of home life you want – career planning and life decisions**

- **God gives us the liberty to decide:**

- single / married
- children / how many

➤ - **we are accountable for fulfilling our God-given duty in the home**

- **Eph. 5:22-23a** wives be subject to husbands

➤ - **Eph. 5:25, 28-29a** husbands love wives as Christ loved the church, gave Himself

➤ - **Eph. 6:1-4** children obey / parents raise in the training and admonition of the Lord

- **if we aren't willing to fulfill the obligations of a family role, don't enter into the relationship**

- **illus.: connection between absentee fathers and child abuse** (<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/foundation/foundatione.cfm>)

- **rate of child abuse in single parent households is almost double**

- **compared to their peers living with both parents, children in single parent homes had:**

- **77% greater** risk of being physically abused
- **87% greater** risk of being harmed by physical neglect
- **165% greater** risk of experiencing notable physical neglect
- **74% greater** risk of suffering from emotional neglect
- **80% greater** risk of suffering serious injury as a result of abuse
- **120% greater** risk of experiencing some type of maltreatment overall

- **making decision regarding family is a grave responsibility and shouldn't be taken lightly**

- **don't get married** if you aren't 100% committed – **judgment**

- **don't have children** if you aren't not 100% committed – **judgment**

- **we should make career decisions and life decisions that put us in a position to fulfill your obligations**

- **illus.: David Bonner**, last time preacher here

- told us about his career decision, dentistry, where he could have time to do other things – family, preaching (meetings all over USA)

- **illus.: many Christians have changed jobs** so they are in a position to serve the Lord better

- **Beth and Allan** both

- **have a better schedule** so can raise family and be at all church services – **Mark NeSmith**

- **take a job paying less money** for better work environment and better schedule

- **best to know what you want, and only take jobs and agree to school projects that are in line with achieving your most important goals – spiritual**

- **communicate schedule requirements** before taking job or agreeing to school projects

➤ **Set your financial priorities – career planning and life decisions**

- **Mk. 8:34-38** Jesus, what does it profit . . . . – put God 1<sup>st</sup> regarding finances

- **Mk. 8:33** set your mind on the interests of God

- put God 1<sup>st</sup> regarding financial plans

➤ - **illus.: rich young ruler's error** – made his spiritual priorities secondary

- **Matt. 19:16-22** story, rich young ruler, what lacked, sell possessions and give to poor, have treasure in heaven, follow Jesus, grieved, owned much property

- put financial before spiritual

- **Matt. 19:23-24** hard for rich man to enter kingdom of heaven, easier for a camel to go through eye of needle

- affluent people likely to put money before God

- **Matt. 19:25-26** reaction of apostles and Jesus' reaction

➤ - **illus.: Zaccheus**

- **Lk. 19:1-7** story of Zaccheus, short, climbed sycamore tree to see Jesus who saw him and said, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

- **Lk. 19:8-10** Zaccheus' financial commitment toward God, Jesus' response

- used finances to do God's work

➤ - **illus.: widow who gave all she had to live on**

- **Lk. 21:1-4** widow, true story

- used money toward spiritual things before physical things, gave all she had

- **Are you like the rich young ruler, or like Zaccheus and the widow who put God before money?**

- **test#1: How much money do you want to make?** – set financial priorities

- provide necessities of life, and whatever else God gives you is an extra blessing

- live a comfortable middle class or upper class lifestyle

- retire early / have plenty of money when retire so you can enjoy life

- **test #2: What are you willing to sacrifice to make that much, and what are you not willing to sacrifice?**

- **family time**

- not know kids while they're growing up

- not be there to raise them, someone else has to do it

- **assembly of the saints**

- miss assemblies to work

- **work in the kingdom**

- not be there except for Sunday and Wednesday

- not be responsible for doing things

- not do personal work or evangelism

- **test #3: What are your highest financial priorities?** – set financial priorities

- providing personal needs and needs of family

- saving / retirement

- contributing on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week

- sharing with people in need, especially Christians

- personal work

- **Decide where you want to be the moment after you die – career planning and life decisions**, live appropriately
    - **Ja. 4:14-15a** life, vapor, life passes quickly
    - - **illus.: video, vapor, boiling water** – vapor lasts about a second
      - **child** born in USA today expected to live about **80 years**
      - a vapor is about **1/2.5 billionth of the child's life**
        - i.e., child would **live a little longer than 2.5 billion vapors**, if each vapor was a second
    - **illus.: life on earth is so short:**
      - **it will seem like a blink of an eye** after a thousand years in eternity
      - **it may not be remember** after quadrillions of years in heaven
    - **decide where you want to be when you die, because you will be there very soon**
  - - **Ps. 90:12** **number your days, to have a heart of wisdom** – wise in use of time upon earth – redeem the time
    - **decide where you want to be when you die, because you will be there very soon**
  - **illus.: rich man and Lazarus** – story
    - rich man probably regretted his career path and life decisions once he was in torment (Hades)
    - **decide where you want to be when you die, because you will be there very soon**
  - **are living in such a way to go where you want to be when you die**
    - are you making decisions that help you get there
- **Decide what you want your life to have been like when you get to the judgment – career planning and life decisions**, live appropriately
  - **we will have to give an answer for the decisions we've made, and what we've done**
    - **Ec. 12:14** God will **bring every act to judgment**, whether it is **good or evil**
    - **Matt. 12:36** every **careless word that people speak**, they shall give an **accounting** for it in the day of judgment
    - **2 Cor. 5:10** we must **all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may be **recompensed for his deeds in the body**, according to what he has done, **whether good or bad**
  - **What do you want you're life to be have been like, when you stand before Jesus in judgment, and give an account for what you've done?**
    - live so you have no regrets

### Summary / Inv.

- **career planning and life decisions** – review PP
- **Do you need to make any changes for you die?**
- **inv.**