

How to Make it for the Long Haul

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I. Introduction.

II. Principles.

A. We must keep in mind that there are seasons of life comparable to the natural seasons.

1. Spring.

- a. This is preparation.
- b. Schooling should be looked after here.
- c. We should start in the spring of life.

2. Summer.

- a. Growing should be our major interest.
- b. One must cultivate weeds.

3. Autumn.

- a. Here we secure out holdings.
- b. You are not in demand with jobs as much here.
- c. This is a time to reap.
- d. It is well worth to pay the price in the spring and summer so you can enjoy the autumn and winter more.

4. Winter.

- a. This is the time when one enjoys the harvest.
- b. This does not necessarily mean retirement.

B. Balance in the seasons. (Ecclesiastes 7:17)

- a. We have to be careful to only take our responsibilities and not God's.
- b. Make decisions according to your whole life.

C. Keep in mind personal balance. (Luke 2:52)

1. Wisdom - intellectual. (Ecclesiastes 10:1)

a. As you begin to mature in life you must act the part.

2. Stature - physical.

3. God - spiritual.

4. Man - social. (2 Corinthians 8:21, Isaiah 52)

III. Question and answer.

A. How to deal with stress when stretched.

1. God can give us wisdom in regards to this.

2. God is always first but sometimes that means putting your children or church “first.”

3. Get on top of things when you are young.

4. Adapt your lifestyle to fit your cloth.

B. How to work with one’s mate to be excited about the long haul.

1. Make it as easy on your mate as possible.

2. Have the same goals in life.

C. How to sustain your spiritual growth in the tough times.

1. When you are walking with the Lord you sustain growth.

2. As soldiers we are threats to the enemy—when we are attacked we can be encouraged that we are in the battle.

3. Someone that practices discipline over the flesh can get on top of it even if it does not go away.

4. Jesus is really all that we need.

5. We have to maintain discipline. (1 Peter 1:5-12)

D. How to keep God as your first love.

1. Keep in the Word.

2. Do not be afraid of correction. (Proverbs 6:20)

3. Be willing to change your schedule.

4. Build and maintain a lasting confidence in God by walking with God and seeing what He accomplishes.

E. Consequences of sin.

1. Christ cleanses us from all sin. (Psalm 51)
2. However, despite forgiveness in heaven, there are consequences for sin on earth.
3. In this life there is a relationship between cause and effect that is immutable.
4. The greatest thing is to sit at Jesus' feet and hear His Word.

F. The gospel is the payment over the penalty of sins, the payment of the victory over sin and it is provision for the removal of sin as well.

G. Christians can start well and finish carnally.

H. How to prevent the Bible from getting boring.

1. Read from another translation.
2. Be easy on yourself.
3. Get some time by yourself and ask God to feed you—He will.

I. How do you feel joyful when you are overcome with problems.

1. Get some help.
2. We all drift and need help.

Application questions

1. How can applying the seasons of life help one prepare in the early stages better?

2. What are the areas Jesus grew in and how can we grow similarly?

3. Why is sin such a big deal when God can forgive us eternally anyway?
