

Enduring for the Long Haul

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I. Introduction.

A. Subject: how to make it for the long haul.

B. It depends upon several things.

II. We must make decisions against the backdrop of our whole lives.

A. This requires that we keep in mind the seasons of our life.

B. We make decisions according to the season we are in.

1. Spring is the time that we plant our crop.

a. Here we get our trades in early.

b. It is wonderful to be a Christian at an early age.

2. In summer we cultivate.

a. It is more difficult to plant with a short season.

3. In fall we harvest.

a. Here you want to really work hard before the snow falls.

4. In winter we enjoy the fruit.

a. The seasons of life will come around again, but not for you.

II. Decisions are made in light of wisdom, stature, God and man. (Luke 2:52)

A. Wisdom. We need to keep up the information that goes into our minds so we can make proper decisions.

B. Stature. We need to develop an exercise program to stay in shape.

C. Spiritual. Keep up the disciplines to stay out of sin.

1. Power corrupts, and supreme power corrupts supremely.

2. The longer you have gotten away from the disciplines, the more you are in danger of dabbling with sin. (2 Timothy 4:5)

3. Doing the work of an evangelist ensures that we do not get too soft. (Revelation, Proverbs 6:2-9)

III. What is necessary to get the work done.

A. Your motivation. (Psalm 23)

1. Goodness and mercy following us is a promise in which we must meet the conditions.
2. The qualification is that the Lord must be our Shepherd. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
3. We must let God lead us - there is a tremendous advantage to it.
4. God restores our souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)
5. We are to walk in righteousness. (Colossians 2:6)
6. We are to walk unafraid. (Isaiah 41:10)
7. God comforts us. (John 15:26, 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
8. God will provide for us to eat at his table. (Revelation 3:20)
9. We want to get to know the Lord in a very personal way. (2 Timothy 1:12)

B. Your convictions. (Philippians 3:12)

1. People are quick to ask how far they can go without sinning, but they should go the other way.
2. We need to put the Bible into our lives and not things that will harm us spiritually.
3. You have to sacrifice present pleasures for future rewards.
4. Sometimes suffering is simply putting aside our way for His way.
5. We are to train up children according to their gifts and talents. (Proverbs 22:6, Psalm 37:4-5)

C. Your foundation.

1. Your foundation is the Word.
2. Memorizing the Bible will not keep you from sin, but it will give you the ability to not sin. (Psalm 12:6)
3. Take the pure Word of God and pack it into your heart.
4. Memorize the Word - at least 50 verses a year.
5. Do it unto the Lord and not unto men, and worship Him. (Romans 12:1-2)
6. We must keep up the disciplines without pressure from men.

Application questions

1. What role does right motivation play in enduring for the long haul? What is the right motivation?

2. What role does Scripture memory play in enduring? Explain.

3. Memorize Psalm 12:6 and write it below. What is your plan for Scripture memory, and how will you be held accountable?
