

# Preparing for the Long Haul

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Today we live by faith but we will not in eternity, so as we get to the end of our faith we get to the end of our faith.
- B. Things that make a difference: a proper attitude towards balance, authority and cause and effect.

## II. Balance.

- A. Without balance we get into serious trouble.
- B. Many bad things result from making too much of a good thing.
- C. Matthew 7 is a guideline - do unto others as you would have them do to you.
- D. Balance is a value judgment. (Isaiah 32:17)
- E. See things in perspective.
- F. Study Bible passages that seem to be in contradiction to get some balance.
  - 1. Pleasing men and pleasing God. (Galatians 1:10, Acts 5:29, Daniel 6:10, Daniel 3:18, 2 Corinthians 8:21, 1 Peter 2:15, Matthew 17:27, 1 Timothy 5:8)
  - 2. Learning from God and learning from men. (1 John 2:27, Timothy)
  - 3. Verses you do not know what to do with you put down the middle.
  - 4. Saving money and not saving money. (Matthew 6:19-20, Proverbs 6:6, Matthew 6:32-33)
- G. Seasons—you do certain things at certain times.
  - 1. In spring you plant.
  - 2. In summer you cultivate.
  - 3. In fall you harvest.
  - 4. In winter you enjoy the fruits.
- H. The seven laws of the harvest. (Proverbs 20:4)
  - 1. We only reap what we sew.

2. We reap the same kind as we sew.
3. We reap in a different season than we sew.
4. We reap more than we sew. (Proverbs 22:8)
5. We reap in proportion to what we sew. (Luke 9:23, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 10:35-36)
6. We reap the whole harvest of good only if we persevere.
7. We cannot do anything about last year's harvest but only about this year's.

III. Authority.

IV. Cause and effect.

**Application questions**

1. Why is balance important in the Christian life?

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2. Which Scriptural study on balance was most helpful to you? Explain.

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3. Memorize Luke 9:23 and write it below. How does this verse relate to harvesting?

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