

Character of a Discipline: Balance

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I. Introduction.

- A. Make choices with your lifespan in mind because the seasons return but not for you.
- B. It is good to study your life and the seasons of your life and make them pay off for you.
- C. It is good to practice making good decisions.

II. We have to learn to live life in its cycles and seasons. (Mark 4:19)

- A. The Word brings forth fruit.
- B. The cares of life keep us out of the Word.
 - 1. These cares are not all bad, but they can consume a person.
 - 2. You want to separate activities from priorities.
- C. You have to watch your life and keep it in balance.

III. Many things in life you have to put up in tension.

- A. There are many tensions in the Bible.
 - 1. Pleasing God and pleasing men. (Galatians 1:10, 2 Corinthians 8:21, Acts 5:29, Daniel 6:10, Matthew 17:27)
 - a. Jesus did not have to obey the temple tax, but he did not want to offend men.
 - b. Jesus would obey men on some things but obey God in others against them.
 - 2. Memorize verses that complement each other.
 - a. For instance, you can ask God for assistance in the trades and for the Word. (Exodus 31:35, Acts 6:4)
 - b. Try to study the balancing truths.
 - 3. Learn from God and learn from men. (1 John 2:27, Timothy)
 - 4. There can be two distinct unities, but a house divided against itself cannot stand. (Mark 9:40, Matthew 12:38)
 - 5. Be narrow about some things and open minded about others.

B. We have limits upon what we can do.

1. We can employ disciplines to help us.

2. However there is nothing we can do in the Spirit without God. (2 Corinthians 3:5)

Application questions

1. Are the cares of the world bad things? Explain.

2. What are we to do with the tensions in the Bible?

3. What can you do in the spiritual life and what must you rely upon God for? Give examples.
