

One Life  
*Maximizing Impact*  
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Welcome to Capital Baptist Church and welcome to our brand new teaching series entitled “One Life.” I am so glad you are here today as we begin this new series. And right now I am going to ask you to take your Bible and turn to my favorite book of the Bible which is Philippians. And today we are going to be looking here in Philippians chapter three. I love the book of Philippians.

Also as you are turning there I am going to ask you to take out the study guide. There is a study guide inside of your program and if you are new to our church today, this is a tool that I put together every week to provide for you, to help you get more out of the message. So I hope that you will take advantage of it and I am going to constantly be looking at it and referring to it myself and you will get a whole lot more out of the message if you use the study guide. There is a few blanks to fill in as well. And so you can take a look at that.

If you are listening online today, we want to welcome you to our One Life series and I want to thank you for taking the time to listen today and also you, too, can download the study guide and have it available to you.

Well, I am excited about our series. I am excited about what God is going to do in our lives as we talk about the fact that we only have one life. We only have one life. And it is going to be my privilege over these next five weeks to take you on a journey of discovering and learning how that you can maximize your life and not waste your life.

And I thank you for being here today for our opening message as we talk about maximizing impact. And as we begin, I want you to think about this introduction. In a 70 year life time an average heart beats more than 2.5 billion times. I want you to think about that. Now I am using the baseline of 70 because the Bible says in Psalm 90 verse 10:

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Palm 90:10.

In fact, the Bible kind of uses that as a baseline, but it goes on to say that God might grant you more, ok? But he gives a baseline of a lifespan, a typical lifespan being 70 years.

So think about it in a 70 year lifetime an average heart beats more than 2.5 billion times. This means that it beats about 100,000 times in one day. Just think about this, ok? I don't know where you were yesterday at this time, but I want you to think back to where you were yesterday at 10:06. Ok? Where were you yesterday at 10:06? Over these 24 hours this muscle in your chest has beat 100,000 times. That is incredible. Think about it.

Now that means that in a year your heart is going to beat 35 million times, about 35 million times. With every heartbeat time will pass on by that you can never regain. Our days are numbered and each one that passes becomes gone forever. You only get one shot at life. So here is the deal. Don't waste it.

Now I love Psalm 90 and Psalm 90 is a really cool psalm. You know, most of the psalms are written by a man named David. Psalm 90 is different because it is actually a prayer of Moses. And in Psalm 90 verse number 12 Moses prayed this.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”<sup>2</sup>

That is a really important verse to keep in mind.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”<sup>3</sup>

What is that verse saying? It is saying you have got one life. You have got one life and you need to make it count. And you need to number your days. You need to view every day as an opportunity to do something significant, to do something important, to do something eternal with your life. And if that is going to happen, the Bible says you have got to apply your heart unto wisdom. You can't be a fool. See, a fool will waste their life. A wise person will invest their life. They will maximize their life. They will get the most out of their life. So, listen. This is a prayer. Think about it like this.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”<sup>4</sup>

And what we are going to do these five weeks is every week I am going to ask us to pray this as a prayer together, ok? I am going to ask you right now, if you are willing, to join with me in saying Psalm 90 verse 12. And I want you to read it and I want you to think about it as a prayer. It is a prayer I am going to ask you to offer up to God. Let me read it one more time and then we are going to say it together as a prayer. Moses said and prayed:

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Psalm 90:12.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

Let's pray that together.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”<sup>6</sup>

May that be our prayer, particularly as we go through this series.

This five part series will teach you the five strategies to maximize your life. I am going to give you five strategies that you can apply wisely to your one life. Today we are going to talk about maximizing impact. Next week I am so excited about this we are going to talk about thinking big.

Donald Trump he said, “You have got to think about something. You might as well think about something big.”

I think that is a pretty cool statement. Paul had the same philosophy we are going to see next week. I have got to think about something. I might as well think about something big. And if you are going to do something significant with your one life, you have got to be a big thinker.

Then we are going to talk about producing change. See, you are never going to do something significant with your life unless you are in the personal development and you are a life long learner. You have got to keep changing. You have got to keep growing. You have got to keep developing your life. And I am going to talk about producing change in your life. Then I want to talk about staying focused. Isn't this a hard one for you? It is a hard one for me. I mean, just staying focused, just staying on track. I mean, it is not easy to stay focused. Well, we are going to talk about how we can do that.

And then the last message is going to be finishing well. Just finishing well. And I am going to try to get your mind on the end of your life and how you are going to finish your life.

I am excited about these messages. I hope you will be here and I hope you will listen as often as you can to these messages.

Now in this series we are going to do something unique and that is it is going to be a study of a person, a Bible character. Now his name is Paul. Of all the people in the Bible apart from Jesus, I don't know of anybody in the Bible who more wanted to maximize his life than this man called Paul. And what we are going to be doing is every week we are going to be looking at this one life concept and these different topics through the passages in the Bible where Paul spoke of these different issues we are going to look at during this time.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

Now maybe you have heard this guy named Paul. Maybe you haven't. Let me tell you a little bit about this guy named Paul. Number one, you need to understand this, Paul was a contemporary of Jesus.

You say, "What does contemporary mean?"

Well, it means that he lived at the same time as Jesus. He was on the earth at the very same time as Jesus Christ. In fact, the Bible tells us that both of them were in Jerusalem at the same time. But there is no indication in the Bible that Paul actually ever met Jesus. No doubt he knew about Jesus, but he probably, from what we can tell from the Bible, never actually physically met Jesus. Maybe he did, but it is not recorded in the Bible.

So Paul was living during the time of Jesus Christ. He was a contemporary of Jesus. But not only that, he was an enemy of Jesus. You know the first time we Paul, do you know what he is doing? He is actually killing a Christian. The guy's name was Stephen and Paul hated Jesus so much that because this man named Stephen identified himself with Jesus Christ, he actually had him murdered. He was an enemy of Jesus Christ. But later on the Bible tells us how that he became a follower of Jesus Christ. He moved from being an enemy to a follower of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us in Acts chapter nine that this guy Paul was walking down a road and that road led to a town called Damascus. And the Bible tells us the reason Paul was walking down that road was he was going there because he wanted to get a document written up that would actually outlaw Christianity. He actually was going there because he hated Jesus so much and he hated Christians so much and he hated Christianity so much. He actually wanted to get an official document made that said it would be an illegal thing to be a Christian.

Well, on that road that day Jesus showed up, ok? Jesus showed up. And Jesus came and Jesus spoke to Paul and he convicted him of his sin and the Bible tells us how that Paul was broken and he humbled himself and he cried out to Jesus as Lord. He asked Jesus Christ to be his Savior and to be his Lord.

But a fourth thing we need to know about Paul is this. This is so important. Don't miss it. And that is he was an example of a Christian.

You say, "Why are we studying this man?"

Well, Philippians three verse number 17, the last part of this passage we are looking at today says this.

"Brethren, be followers together of me."<sup>7</sup>

Paul actually lifted himself up as a role model and said:

"Brethren, be followers together of me."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Philippians 3:17.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

He actually told us under the inspiration of God... What does inspiration mean? The fact that God led him, that God told him to write this and it became part of the holy Scriptures. God led Paul to pen these words.

“Brethren, be followers together of me.”<sup>9</sup>

Why should we follow him? Well, in the front page of our notes at the bottom it says:

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”<sup>10</sup>

The reason we should follow his example because Paul was a great example of following Christ.

So over these next five weeks, we are going to do what the Bible says, ok? We are going to do what the Bible says. We are going to look at Paul and his example and how we can follow after that example.

Well, today we are going to look at Philippians chapter three. We are going to talk about maximizing impact. Before we get into this whole passage, I want to read just one verse, Philippians three verse eight. I think this is really the center point of this passage. Here Paul says:

“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”<sup>11</sup>

Paul had such a passion for life. He viewed anything done in life outside of living for Jesus as dung. Do you know what dung is? Dung is manure. It is waste. He is saying this. “I don’t want to waste my life.” And he understood that anything he did with his life apart from Jesus Christ was dung. It was waste. It was manure. It was a wasted life. And he said, “My passion, my desire is this. I want to win Christ. I want to do everything I can for Jesus Christ.”

Today I hope that is your desire, to take your one life and make sure every beating of your heart beats for Jesus, it beats for Jesus.

How can we do that? How can we maximize our impact? Within this passage, let go to page two of our notes and in this passage Paul lays out for us how to maximize impact. You know, the first thing you have to do which is so important and this takes some humility is this. You have to be willing to face your faults. Now here is the deal. Paul didn’t spend all his life living for Jesus. In fact, Paul wasted a lot of years of his life. Hey, you know what? I am the same way. How about you? I haven’t lived my whole life

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:1.

<sup>11</sup> Philippians 3:8.

for Jesus. I wish I could say I have, but I haven't. There has been times that I have wasted my life. Apart from Jesus Christ I think it is fair to say that none of us can say that we have spent our whole life, every heartbeat of our life living for Jesus. All of us can say, "You know what? I wasted my life."

And maybe you are sitting here today and you can say, "You know what? My life has amounted to nothing or at least a season of my life it has been a waste. It has been dung. It has been a waste."

So what do you got to do? Well, the first thing you do is you have got to face your faults. You have got to just do what Paul did. He did an honest evaluation of his life. And here is the first impact principle I want to give you. Admit your sins and need for forgiveness. Now Paul had to do this in a big, big way, because for Paul what he had to do is he had to move from living a life of having what I call a religious résumé to living a life of having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Let me say that again. The big change Paul had to make in his life was he was living a life, a life of waste that was focused on building a religious résumé. And he had to be willing to face his fault. He had to be willing to admit he was wrong and he had to be willing to confess of his sin. But rather than focusing on a religious résumé, he had to live a life of having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Do you understand there is a big difference between being religious and having a relationship with Jesus Christ? Let me say that again. Do you know there is a big difference between having a religion and being religious and having a relationship with Jesus? Let me unpack that for you. Paul here begins talking about his life. In verse four he says:

"Though I might also have confidence in the flesh."<sup>12</sup>

Now what is he talking about? Paul is getting read to tell us, "You know what? I had confidence in the flesh, meaning I had the most incredible religious résumé." In other words, he was thinking that to get to heaven he had to do certain things. It is important to understand that religion is based on do. Having a relationship with Christ is based on done. What do I mean by that? It is recognizing that Christ did it for you, ok, that it is done. That is part of what this day, this special day is all about.

And he began to give us his religious résumé. He said this, verse five.

Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.<sup>13</sup>

He started touting his religious résumé and some you here today you have a religious résumé. I have done this. I am part of the right church. I have been baptized. I take out

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<sup>12</sup> Philippians 3:4.

<sup>13</sup> Philippians 3:5-6.

the trash. I do good deeds here. You know, I do good deeds there. I am a really good person. That is a religious résumé. Paul had to be willing to face his faults and realize that is not good enough religious résumé.

In verse seven it says:

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.”<sup>14</sup>

And in that context verse eight he says this, “I viewed all that as dung. I viewed all that as a wasted life.” He says, “What I want to do now is I want to win Christ. I want to win Christ.”

He had to face his faults. Today would you do an honest evaluation of your life and maybe you need to move from being religious to having a relationship with Christ. Or maybe you have a so-called relationship with Christ, but you still have a wasted life because you are not winning Christ. You are not living for Christ. It takes some honesty to face this.

Now you say, “Well, how do I move from religion to relationship?”

Well, Romans 10:9 tells us how. It says:

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”<sup>15</sup>

Saved from what, you might say. It is saved from hell. How can you get saved from hell? How can you go to heaven? The Bible says clearly you have to confess with your mouth what? The Lord Jesus. And you have to believe in your heart. Now, listen. This is important, not just that Jesus died. It is not enough to believe that Jesus died for you. You have to also believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. If you do not believe the resurrection of Jesus Christ based on the authority of the Word of God, you are going to hell. Ok? Based on the authority of God’s holy Word today is a big deal. It is a big deal because we are celebrating the crowning jewel of our faith, that is that Jesus is alive. It is the crowning jewel of our faith to believe that Jesus Christ came out of that grave. And to be saved, you have to believe not just that Jesus died for you, but that Jesus rose from the grave to given you eternal life. You have to believe there is forgiveness, Ephesians 1:7, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

So the question is this. Where do you need to change? See, Paul was willing to make a change. Look at verse nine. He says:

“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness...”<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Philippians 3:7.

<sup>15</sup> Romans 10:9.

<sup>16</sup> Philippians 3:9.

He says, “Not that religious résumé stuff, which is of the law, but rather I want to have this. I want to have a relationship with God in that it is through the faith of Christ and the righteousness which is of God by faith, putting your faith, putting your trust in Jesus to get you to heaven.”

And Paul didn't stop there. He said:

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”<sup>17</sup>

Face your faults. Just don't keep driving forward. Stop and face your faults. I love that little statement. God allows u-turns. Don't you like that, ok? You know, people, Christians put that on their bumper sticker and then they drive 80 miles an hour. Amen. Ok? I mean, that is why you don't see any bumper stickers on my car.

But anyway, moving forward here, ok? You know, God allows u-turns. And do you know what? He will allow you to make a u-turn. Face your faults.

Number two, forget the former. Verse number 13 Paul says this:

“...forgetting those things which are behind.”<sup>18</sup>

Now Paul had a lot to forget. He had a lot to forget. And one of the things he had to forget was he actually had murdered. He had actually murdered people. Just think about that. He was actually responsible for the death of Christians. In fact, when he became a believer and he came to meet the other Christians, they were actually afraid of him. Did you know that? They really didn't even trust him. I mean, this was huge what we see here. This was a big deal. He had murdered. He had hurt people. He had caused a lot of pain in people.

Do you know what? Maybe you have done that. Maybe you haven't murdered anybody. But maybe you have hurt a lot of people. Maybe you have caused pain for the people you care about the most? You can look at your life and say, “You know what? I actually hurt people I love the most.”

For him to say this was huge.

“...forgetting those things which are behind.”<sup>19</sup>

You see, Satan wants you to live your life looking through the rear view mirror, ok? That is what he wants. And so many of you that is what you are focused on. You have so messed up your life and so blown your life, you are spending all your time looking in the rear view mirror. And I tell you, listen. Satan has you right where he wants you, because

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<sup>17</sup> Philippians 3:10.

<sup>18</sup> Philippians 3:13.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.



you are never going to do anything significant with your life looking back. The impact principle is this. Do not allow the past to control you to yet today.

“...forgetting those things which are behind.”<sup>20</sup>

I love Isaiah 43:18-19 that says:

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; no it shall spring forth.”<sup>21</sup>

Question. What memory do you need to forget?

Number three, focus on the future. Focus on the future. It is not enough just to forget. You have got to focus. There is {?} forgetting and focusing. See, sometimes we can kind of forget and we kind of move past our past, but we don't move on to our future. {?} You have done pretty good at moving past you past, but, you know, you are not really focused too much on what is head. And Paul put it this way in verse number 13. He says:

“... forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth.”<sup>22</sup>

What are you reaching for? See, one life means you are reaching forward to what is ahead of you, ok? You are reaching out. That means you have got dreams. That means you have goals. That means you have ambition in your life. You are focusing on the future. And the impact principle here is this. Discover and do the will of God.

You say, “Give me a definition of a life of impact.”

Her is the definition. Doing life in the will of God.

You say, “Give me a definition of a wasted life.”

Doing life outside of the will of God.

You say, “Well, what is the will of God?”

Well, begin with the Word of God. You know, so many people spend so much time focused on other stuff, trying to figure that out, that they neglect the very will of God here. Amen? I mean, this. I am telling you. You can spend a lifetime just doing this right here, ok? Just doing what the Bible says. the Word of God is the will of God. What God has told you in his Word is God's will for your life. And what we have got to do is we have got to reach forth to do what God wants us to do.

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Isaiah 48:18-19.

<sup>22</sup> Philippians 3:13.

We need to pray Colossians 1:9. We need to pray that we will be filled with a knowledge of his will.

Question. Are you focused on doing the will of God? Are you focused on doing the will of God? Ephesians 5:15-17 tells us we need to walk not as fools. Don't walk like a fool, but be wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil. You don't have much time. you don't have time to waste.

“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”<sup>23</sup>

Be focused on your future. Be focused on what is ahead. You know, make some goals. Have some ambition about you. You know, have some dreams about you. You know? Do it. Reach forth. Reach and do something with your life.

Number four, fight to the finish. Boy, this one is a big one. It says:

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”<sup>24</sup>

Now this word press is a really cool word, ok? And it implies the idea that you are like pushing and while you are pushing it is kind of pushing back. That is called life, right? That is called life. Life is not easy. Ok? And when you are pushing...

Yesterday when I was at the gym one of my favorite exercises is the bench press. Now there was a time when I could bench press over 300 pounds. Ok? Today I can't bench press over 300 pounds. I am not going to tell you how much I can do, ok? But I take a weight and I do 15 reps. Ok? And I get on that bench press. I don't have a lot there. I love to bench press, because, you know, do you know what? If I don't push this, I am going to die, ok? It is because I don't have the... I don't work out with anybody. I mean, to me it is really cool, ok? And I am thinking, ok, if you don't push this, you are going to die, ok? So do you want to die or do you want to push it up, ok? And you are sitting there and you are on that bench and you are just pushing, pushing, pushing. And the whole time you are pressing back. That is kind of the word that is used here. That is what life is like. Life is hard. Life is tough. Life is not fair, ok? It is not fair. It really isn't. And we have to realize that if we are going to do something with our life, this one life we have. We have got to follow this impact principle and that is to never quit.

Paul says, “I am pressing.”

2 Timothy 2:3 says:

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Ephesians 5:17.

<sup>24</sup> Philippians 3:14.

<sup>25</sup> 2 Timothy 2:3.

There is a handful of verses in the Bible I can fairly say I almost think of every day. One of these days I might do a series called, "Verses I think about every day." And one of those verses I think about almost every day, because 2 Timothy 2:1-6 is kind of the theme passage of my life, ok? I think about that whole passage a lot, but I especially think about verse number three where it says:

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."<sup>26</sup>

The Bible says we have to endure the hardness of life. We actually have to endure the hardness of life. And a lot of us because of the hardness of life end up quitting, end up throwing in the towel. And what we have to do is we have to rise up and realize if we are going to do something with our one life we can never quit. We have to keep pressing.

Right now I am writing another book. Some of you know I wrote a book called *Bod4God*. And now I am writing another book and the publisher asked me to write a book on health for men. It is going to be a men's book for health. And I want you to pray about this project because, number one, the average man reads one book a year. And I can assure you they are probably not going to read a book about health, ok, in that one book, ok? So this could turn out to be the world's worst selling book, but I don't believe that is going to happen. I believe God has got his hand on it, ok?

Now it is going to be kind of a book that kind of my style. Kind of an in your face, kind of a humorous approach. The name of the book is *Get Off the Couch, You Lazy Bum*. Ok, that is the name of the book. Now it is going to have, you know, football, because I am kind of a football guy. I played football and things like that, kind of football throughout.

Now the reason I am saying all that is I have been reading a lot of quotes about these things, these different topics. And some of the quotes I was looking at this week I want to read right now because they fit right with this idea here.

Now you have got to know about Paul. Paul loved sports, ok? And he said a lot about sports. He used that analogy a lot, but let me just read to you some of these what I call never quit quotes. Ok, Vince Lombardi. Now Vince Lombardi coached the Green Bay Packers, ok? And he is my second favorite coach of all time. My favorite coach of all time is Joe Gibbs. My second favorite coach was Vince Lombardi and Vince said this. He said, "The real glory is being knocked to you knees and then coming back. That is real glory."

Have you been knocked to you knees? The real glory is being knocked to you knees and then coming back. That is real glory.

Tom Landry who said this, he said, "Setting a goal is not the main thing. It is deciding how you will go about achieving it." This last part is what I want to focus on. "And staying with that plan."

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

You have got to set a goal, but he says deciding how you will go about achieving it—and here is the kicker—staying with the plan. That is called never quitting. And there is many more here.

The point is this. You have got to endure the hardness. You are going to do something with your life.

People that I have met in my life who have made the greatest impact in life, every one of them had something in common. They have suffered a lot. They have gone through a whole lot to get where they are in life. The question is this. Do you have tenacity? The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15:58, now I want to pause here and we are going not wrap it up real quick after this. But I want to pause here and drill down a little bit on this passage. The bottom of page three.

1 Corinthians 15 and the last verse in that chapter is verse 58. Now what is significant about 1 Corinthians 15? The answer is it is called the resurrection chapter in the Bible. Do you know that thousand and thousands of preachers today all over this world have actually made this 1 Corinthians 15 their text for the day? I have done it before on Easter, because it is a great text to look at on Easter, because it is the resurrection chapter in the Bible.

Let me lay it out for you. Paul begins by saying this. He says, “I want to tell you about the gospel.” 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. The gospel means good news. He says the good news is that Jesus died for our sins, that he was buried and on the third day he rose from the grave to give us eternal life. He calls that the gospel. He calls that the good news. And just as if he heard the voices of people who would say, “It is impossible for someone to come out of the grave once they die,” he goes and says, “You know what? He did resurrect.”

And one of the ways we know that he resurrected was lots of people saw him after he resurrected. In fact, one of the passages says actually 500 people saw him at one time. Not only that, others saw him. And then he begins to say this. He says, “You know what? If it wasn’t for the resurrection of Christ, we don’t have faith.” He says, “We have an empty faith.” And he said that I have nothing to preach about if Jesus didn’t come out of that grave. He says it is a big deal.

And then he begins to talk about the new body and the resurrection body and it is really a powerful passage. And at the end of that chapter here is what it says. He says, “Therefore.” And when you see therefore in the Bible, what are you supposed to ask? What is it there for? Ok? Right? You don’t ever see a therefore in the Bible without saying what is it there for. And he is pointing back to verses one through 57. In verse 55 he says:

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:55.

He says:

“The sting of death is sin.”<sup>28</sup>

And he unpacks that whole deal. And he says, “Therefore, because Jesus is alive be steadfast. Don’t quit. Be unmovable. Don’t budge an inch and waste your life. Be unmovable.”

Listen to this.

“... always abounding in the work of the Lord.”<sup>29</sup>

I love that word abounding. That means putting everything you have got into it. Abound in the work of the Lord. Do it with passion. Do it with fervency. Give it your all. God’s work deserves the best. I love what Paul said in verse eight we read earlier. He is talking about the excellency that is in Christ Jesus.

Man, if you do something with Jesus, do it in an excellent way. Don’t do anything half hearted for Jesus. It is the excellency that is in Christ Jesus. Always abounding in the work of the Lord.

And here is the deal. Your labor, it is never in vain. It is never empty in the Lord. Praise God. Fight to the finish.

And then lastly on the back of our notes follow the framework.

You say, “What do you mean by that?”

Well, God has given us a framework to work with that and what that is called is the Bible. And so the principle here, the impact principle here is to indeed obey the Word of God. And I like Paul’s attitude that expresses in this verse in verse 15. He says:

“Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded.”<sup>30</sup>

Now what I like about this is I think a lot of times we waste our life when we have this attitude. Well, you know, we are all sinners and we all going to mess up and we are all going to do things we shouldn’t do. And do you know what? Theologically that is correct. But a person who wants to do something with their one life doesn't do life that way. Here. They are thus minded thinking in terms, I want to do it right. I want to be perfect.

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<sup>28</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:56.

<sup>29</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:58.

<sup>30</sup> Philippians 3:15.

Now will you ever be perfect? No. But when you sin you don't have this fatalistic attitude, well, we all sin. You have an attitude that says, "Oh, God, I have sinned. Oh, God, I have wasted that part of my life. Oh, God, forgive me."

May you burn with a passion to win Christ. And you want to follow the framework. You want to follow the Word of God. Are you obeying the Word of God? James four tells us, verse 14:

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow."<sup>31</sup>

See, life is uncertain. You don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. Life is short. It says that life is a vapor. It appears of a little time and then, poof, it is gone. It vanishes away. Life is a gift. I mean, these people were saying in verse 13. We are going to go here and there. We are going to do this.

God says, "Let me tell you something, if the Lord will."

What does that mean that every day is a gift? You know, people have already died this morning somewhere. I don't know anybody personally that died, but I guarantee you they are dead. I guarantee you up the street at {} Hospital, I wouldn't be surprised right now if there is an ambulance pulling in right now with a dead body in the back.

You say, "Why do you want to bring up stuff like that on Easter?"

Well, I am not sure why I brought that up myself, but the point is, you know, it is a gift that you are sitting here. God gave you another day. It is a gift. And if the Lord wills, you are going to live today. And if the Lord doesn't will you won't live today. So, therefore, verse 17:

"...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."<sup>32</sup>

You say, "I have been wasting my life. I have been sinning. I know to do good, but I haven't been doing it. What do I need to do?"

Well, you just rewind the study guide. You come back, number one. You face your faults. You say, "You know what? I have wasted my life." And you face it and you ask for forgiveness from God. You forget the former. You forget what is behind.

Listen. You go for your future. You reach forward to what is ahead. And listen. You never quit. You have got to hang in here, ok? Never quit. And then you have got to say, "Ok, I am going to follow the framework. I am going to follow the Word of God."

Are you maximizing your life? Only one life, so soon it will pass. And only what is done for Christ will last.

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<sup>31</sup> James 4:14.

<sup>32</sup> James 4:17.

Paul said everything outside of Jesus was dung. It was waste. He said, “I want to win Christ.”

*Father, we love you. We thank you so much for Paul. Thank you for the example that he is to us, Lord. God, our desire today is to win you.*

With every head bowed and every eye closed today do you need to get rid of your religious résumé today? Do you need to have a relationship with Jesus? If that is your need today, confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that Jesus was raised from the dead and you can be saved. Just talk to him.

V. FOLLOW THE \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 15-16)

A. Impact Principle #5: Obey the Word of God

*“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”* II Timothy 2:5

B. Question: Are you obeying the Word of God?

*13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

*14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

*15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*

*16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.*

*17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”* James 4:13-17

**ONE LIFE**  
**Maximizing Impact**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

A. In a 70 year lifetime an average heart beats more than 2.5 billion times. This means that it beats about 100,000 times in one day and about 35 million times in a year. With every beat, time will pass on by that you can never regain. Our days are numbered and each one that passes becomes gone forever. You only get one shot at life. Don't waste it!

*“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”* Psalm 90:12

B. This five part series will teach you the five strategies to maximize your life.

TODAY	Maximizing Impact
April 15	Thinking Big
April 22	Producing Change
April 29	Staying Focused
May 6	Finishing Well

C. **Text:** Philippians 3:1-17a (Pew Bible/Page 203/New Test.)

**Are You Maximizing Impact?**

Only one life so soon it will pass and only what is done for Christ will last.

*“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”*

I Corinthians 11:1



## HOW TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT

### I. FACE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 1-13a)

- A. Impact Principle #1: Admit your sins and need for forgiveness.

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”* Romans 10:9

*“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”*  
Ephesians 1:7

- B. Question: Where do you need to change?

*“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*  
Proverbs 28:13

### II. FORGET THE \_\_\_\_\_ (v 13b)

- A. Impact Principle #2: Do not allow the past to control you today.

*“18: Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.  
19: Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”* Isaiah 43:18-19

- B. Question: What memory do you need to forget?

*“12: As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.  
13: Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.  
14: For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”* Psalm 103:12-14

### III. FOCUS ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ (v 13c)

- A. Impact Principle #3: Discover and do the will of God

*“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”* Colossians 1:9

- B. Question: Are you focused on doing the will of God?

*“15: See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,  
16: Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.  
17: Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”* Ephesians 5:15-17

### IV. FIGHT TO THE \_\_\_\_\_ (v 14)

- A. Success Principle #4: Never quit.

*“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”* II Timothy 2:3

*“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”* Acts 20:24

- B. Question: Do you have tenacity?

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”* I Corinthians 15:58