

A LIFE WELL LIVED: LIVING FOR THE LORD'S “WELL DONE”

Part One--- Journey Class, February 7, 2021, by
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TIMELINE

Week One

- Defining a Well-Lived Life--Where Do We Look for an Answer?
- Ecclesiastes:A Roadmap for Life
- Applying the Roadmap in 2021
- Don't Waste a Day

TIMELINE--continued

Week Two

- Becoming More Christ-Like
- Loving our Neighbors

Week Three

- Becoming a Leader
- Developing Wisdom

TIMELINE--continued

Week Four

- Celebrating Milestones
- Finishing Well
- Putting This All Together



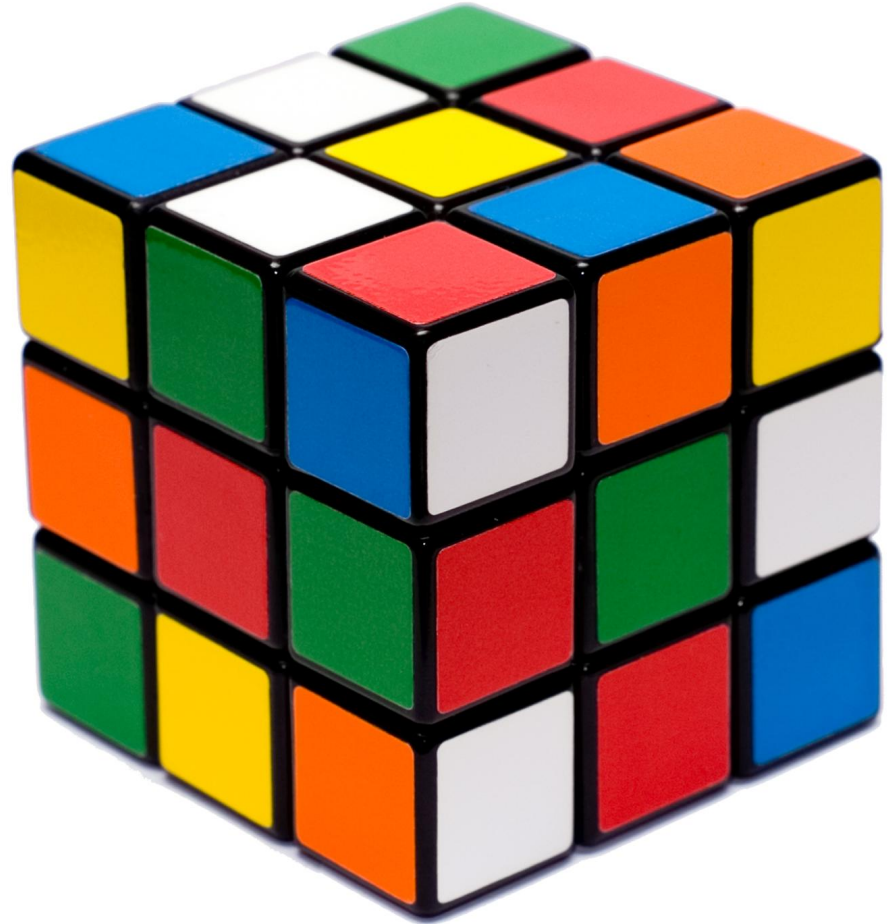
MY
FAVORITE
MOVIE

CITIZEN KANE

- Newspaper tycoon rises from humble beginnings to great power, fame, and wealth
- Did his achievements or hard work provide self-fulfillment?
- His last word spoken provides the answer

LIFE IS A PUZZLE

Which Way Do We Turn ?



The Search Goes On...

- People travel great distances...
- Spend great sums of money...
- And seek out extreme life experiences...
- All in an unsatisfied quest for life's true meaning

Do We Christians Know The Answer?

- Our eternal life is secure through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus
- Is faith sufficient for a well-lived life?
- James 2:14-20---Faith and works cannot be separated/faith without works is “useless”
- Where do we look for the answer?THE BIBLE!!

THE ESSENCE OF A WELL-LIVED LIFE

- The Two Greatest Commandments (Mark 12:28-31)
 - Love The Lord Your God With All Your Heart,
Soul, Mind And Strength And Love Your Neighbor As
Yourself

The Parable Of The Talents

- Matthew 25:14-30
 - A man about to go on a long journey entrusted varying amounts of his property to three servants
 - When he returned, he asked each to give an account
 - Two reported that they had doubled the value of the assets they had received while the other buried his and returned just the original amount

The Parable Of The Talents

- Matthew 25:14-30--continued
 - To the two servants who had doubled the value of the assets they had received, the master said: “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”(25:21,23)
 - The master took the asset previously entrusted to him away from the third servant and he was thrown outside into the darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth

The Parable Of The Talents

- Matthew 25:14-30
- Are we living for the Lord's "Well Done"
- How do we measure up?
- What is the path to get there?

ECCLESIASTES: A ROADMAP FOR A WELL-LIVED LIFE

- Ecclesiastes addresses man's attempt to find meaning in God's creation without coming to know the Creator
- Romans 1:25--"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator"
- Seeking and knowing God is the only true answer

THE TEN DO's AND TEN DON'TS

- No.1A: DON'T Rely on Self-Fulfillment
- Eccl. 1:1-2:23
- Even a life like King Solomon lived does not satisfy--despite extreme power, wealth, wisdom,international acclaim, lavish possessions and extraordinary appetites for food,female companionship,etc.

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No. 1B : DO Enjoy Life as a Gift from God
- Eccl.2: 24-26
- God alone gives satisfaction and joy
- God also gives wisdom through His grace
- No one can live a fulfilled life apart from a personal relationship with God

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No. 2A: DO Recognize That God Has an All-Encompassing Plan
- God's plan embraces each of us in each season of our life (Eccl. 3:1-15)--Eccl. 3:1 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven."
- God's plan is perfect and all encompassing--Eccl. 3:2-8

A TIME FOR EVERY SEASON OF LIFE

- A time to be born and a time to die
- A time to plant and a time to reap
- A time to kill and a time to heal
- A time to tear down and a time to build
- A time to weep and a time to laugh
- A time to mourn and a time to dance
- A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them

A TIME FOR EVERY SEASON OF LIFE--continued

- A time to embrace and a time to refrain
- A time to search and a time to give up
- A time to keep and a time to throw away
- A time to tear and a time to mend
- A time to be silent and a time to speak
- A time to love and a time to hate
- A time for war and a time for peace

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No. 2B : DON'T Expect to Know All the Answers
- Eccl.8:17-- "Then I saw all that God had done.No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his efforts to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows he cannot really comprehend it."
- Our need to know more should lead us to God

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No.3A : DO Focus on Enjoying Each Season of Life as God's Plan Unfolds (Eccl. 3:1-14)
- No.3B : DON'T Forget That We Are Accountable for What We Do (Eccl. 11:7-10)

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No.4A : DO Keep Our Focus On God (Eccl.3:1-15)
- No. 4B : DON'T Let the Difficulties (and Blessings) of Life Derail Us (Eccl. 5:17)

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No. 5A : DO Recognize and Give Thanks for God's Daily Multitude of Blessings (Eccl. 3:16 to 7:29)
- No.5B : DON'T Fail to Embrace Life's Challenges and Frustrations As Well (Eccl.3:16 to 7:29)
 - Be content and thankful in all circumstances
 - Some of God's greatest blessings come out of our greatest challenges

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No.6A : DO Remember That We Live in a Fallen World (Eccl. 9:1-6)
 - Sin and death are with us all
- No.6B.: DON'T Be Surprised That Many Human Experiences Seem Inconsistent With God's Plan (Eccl.3:16 to 4:16) --like death, injustice, oppression etc

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No.7A : DO Understand That Prosperity Is Not Always Or Necessarily Good (Eccl. 6:1-12)
 - If it takes our focus off of God
- No.7B : DON'T Mistake Adversity As Being Necessarily Evil (Eccl.7:1-15)
 - If it brings our focus back to God

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No.8A: DO Live Under Governmental Authority
(Eccl.8:1-9)
- No. 8B: DON'T Expect the Government to Solve All Your Problems (Eccl.8:1-9)

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

- No.9A : DO Expect the Unexpected (Eccl. 9:12)
 - Be vigilant and prepared
- No. 9B : DON'T Be Paralyzed By Your Lack of Control Over Life (Eccl. 11:1-6)

THE TEN DO'S AND TEN DON'TS

No. 10A : DO Learn From All Experiences of Life (Eccl 3:16-7:19)

No. 10B : DON'T Wait Until You Are Old to Get the Right Perspective On Life (Eccl. 12:1-8)

APPLYING THE ROADMAP IN 2021

- We must defeat our tendency to worship false gods
 - Work/success
 - Pleasure/all types
 - Comfort
 - Security/safety
 - Money/possessions
 - Etc.,etc.,etc.

APPLYING THE ROADMAP IN 2021

- Many people are experiencing spiritual emptiness and world-weariness
- Many believe that the world can be molded to fit their own ends
- The information explosion has resulted in us knowing more and more about less and less
- The Pandemic is not a surprise to God and God's plan will prevail

IN SUMMARY

- Ecclesiastes teaches us to:
 - Love and trust the living God
 - Joyously receive His gifts
 - Understand what God discloses of His perfect plan
 - Joyously embrace the “ups” and “downs” of life
 - Even while portions of life remain a mystery

DON'T WASTE A DAY

- Determine how our lives need to change
- Start TODAY to make the necessary changes
- Daily prayer and Bible study
- Develop a personal plan based on God's plan for you
 - Personal mission statement (who I am, my areas of special focus and specific action items)

DON'T WASTE A DAY

- Seek Godly mentors
- Expect to be tested
- Develop more empathy for others
- Use time wisely
- Never stop learning

NEXT WEEK

- The Perfect Model: Becoming More Christ-Like
- Loving our Neighbor