

Recently we have focussed on a series of sermons that are what I would call "foundational sermons." They are sermons that I believe our church and every christian should live by. Those sermons have consisted of:

"The Potter and the Clay" (How God wants to mold us, change us the way He wants us)

"The Importance of Respect and Honor"

"Thinking Like God," *Pt 1* and *Pt 2*

"All About the Holy Spirit," *Pts 1-4* (with special focus on the need to hear from Him & How)

Even the sermon on:

"What I Have Learned from the Ministry" fits in because it shows what many christians lack and what we need to be doing.

Today, the focus is on:

Title: "When Your Life is Over What Really Mattered" *Republic, Sept 1, 2024*

Text: *Mostly bible verses consisting of quotes from Jesus, as well as other references*

If we would look closely at all the things Jesus said that had to do with the way He thought, especially all the quotes in the gospel of John, it would help us to realize what should be the most important things to us.

Most of the following verses I have quoted at some point in this foundational series. Let's just remind ourselves of 5 of them.

Jesus saw clearly what His job was, and it is our job as well:

John 6:38 (NIV)

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven **not to do my will** but (rather) **to do the will of him who sent me.**

The only thing that will last will be what we did through God. For us, it will mostly be things that the Holy Spirit guided us to do, or to say:

John 6:63 (NIV)

⁶³ **The Spirit gives life** (What comes from the Holy Spirit produces things that last forever); **the flesh counts for nothing.** (the things we do on our own have no eternal value) (Therefore) **The words I have spoken to you are spirit** (I made sure I got them **in my spirit** from the Holy Spirit---->) **and they are life.** (produce life, produce forever stuff)

John 12:49-50 (NIV)

⁴⁹ For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me **what to say** and **how to say it.** (And, I made it high priority to listen for Him)

⁵⁰ **I know that his command leads to eternal life.** (what He has me say lasts forever)

So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

Most of the will of God is going to involve people, and especially salvations:

John 4:35 (NIV)

³⁵ **Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, **open your eyes and look** at the fields! (You are not looking --->) They are ripe for harvest.**
(God needs workers who care to look)

John 14:31 (NIV)

³¹ **but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me ...**

1. Okay, so we got saved. Our lives are supposed to now belong to God.

If it doesn't, we need to ask forgiveness right now, and turn our lives over to Him.

2. We "got it through our heads" that God is the Potter and we are the clay, and that He will be constantly changing us until the day we die. There is a purpose to it all, and that is to equip us to be more like Him, making us better witnesses to others, making us more effective for Him.

3. We finally have concluded that we had way too much junk in our own thinking, that we have been trying to help God out with, for way too long. In essence we have been leaning on our own understanding ([Proverbs 3:5](#)), constantly evaluating everything from our own perspective. Our mind was so full of all kinds of stuff.

So, we are started to retrain ourselves to think different. We are now allowing God to help us clean the slate of all that junk, and be like Daniel ([Daniel 10:12](#)) & constantly set our mind to gain understanding, and just come to Him for how He wants us to think about everything.

We find that this is a fight because we are so used to doing things the other way. But, since we finally decided we must hear God and not come up with what we think, we will fight our old way of thinking until we master this.

4. We understand we are here on earth to accomplish what the Father wants to do through us. ([John 6:38](#)) We understand that to mean there will be things God will

assign us to do, or say. There are certain people He wants us to talk to, to spend more time with, and others that He may even want us to help. So, we are learning to look more, look for what God wants from us.

We feel the responsibility of the things that He assigns to us, that He may, or may not, assign to someone else, too.

- 5. Now, wherever we go, we are looking for open doors to witness, to say what God wants us to say, to do what God wants us to do. Always looking, looking, looking.**
- 6. When we see things that the Father is doing, things we didn't even realize He was doing until right then, we pray and ask God if He wants us to do anything. We then join Him in what He is already doing. ([John 5:19](#))**
- 7. We feel different now. We feel a bit of adventure in all of this because we do not know what God is going to do next through us. All we know is we are available to speak and do, and that we are constantly watching. We are doing like the bible says "Watch and pray." ([Mark 13:33](#); [Mark 14:38](#); [Colossians 4:2](#))**
- 8. We are interacting with God a lot more than we have ever done before. ([I Thess 4:17](#) - praying without ceasing) We had to retrain ourselves to get better at doing this, but we are doing it, and we are getting better at it.**
- 9. We are even improving ourselves at hearing God's voice, knowing what is "of me," what is "of God," and even what could be "of Satan."**
- 10. We are giving our tithe faithfully as scripture tells us to do. Plus, when we feel directed by God, we give to certain people, or certain causes, He wants us to help.**
- 11. We are finding that we are now living our lives doing exactly what the Father wants us to do. We have learned to talk less, listen more, and keep looking, looking, looking.**
- 12. [John 6:63](#) finally came alive to us, so we truly believe the Spirit gives life, and that our flesh counts for nothing. And, we know that someday we will understand why God had us do all the different things we did. ([John 6:63](#) and [Ecclesiastes 3:14](#))**

Life is not about us. Life is meant to be watching for what God wants to do.

Who does He want me to spend time with?

Who does He want me to say something to? How much does He want me to say?

Who does He want me praying for?

It is all about Him talking to me, directing me, and me hearing Him better. It is an adventure, some of which I may find out why God had me do it while I am still here on earth.

Other things I may not find out about until heaven.

Song - "Thank You" (for giving to the Lord) by Ray Bolz

13. We finally start "getting it" when we think about our flesh vs Spirit. We start seeing the flesh as an area that doesn't help much and can actually be used heavily by Satan.

Then, we remember the passage of scripture when Jesus told Peter to "get behind me Satan" ([Matt 16:23](#)) when all Peter was doing was trying to be nice and help Jesus out. We understand now that Peter was operating in the flesh, and not hearing God. And, just that little bit of flesh was being used by Satan.

14. Suddenly, for the first time in our life [Acts 17:28](#) comes alive to us:

[Acts 17:28](#) (NIV)

²⁸ **'For in him we live and move and have our being.' ...**

In other words:

²⁸ **'For in him (God) we live and (in Him we) move and (in Him we) have our being.' ...**

(and we understand that all the rest of the junk in us just gets in the way)

15. "Somebody, somewhere is waiting on you to do what God has called you to do."

Ending song -

"Go Rest High on That Mountain" by Vince Gill

Conclusion -

Today's message really was a summary of each of the messages I have preached since the Potter and the Clay sermon. Every one of those 15 things summarizes those messages, summarizes how we should be thinking if we really want to be effective for God.

"Somebody, somewhere is waiting on you to be what God has called you to be."

And, "Somebody, somewhere is waiting on you to do what God has called you to do."

Go back through those 15 things we looked at today, and become that person who is ready to do what God has called you to do. It will take some work on your part to start thinking different, but we can all do it if we care.

Lyrics of the songs we used in today's sermon are on the next 2 pages:

Thank You (for giving to the Lord) by Ray BolzVerse 1

I dreamed I went to heaven And you were there with me
We walked upon the streets of gold Beside the crystal sea
We heard the angels singing Then someone called your name
You turned and saw this young man And he was smiling as he came

And he said friend you may not know me now And then he said but wait
You used to teach my Sunday School When I was only eight
And every week you would say a prayer Before the class would start
And one day when you said that prayer I asked Jesus in my heart

Chorus:

Thank you for giving to the Lord I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord I am so glad you gave

Verse 2

Then another man stood before you And said remember the time
A missionary came to your church And his pictures made you cry
You didn't have much money But you gave it anyway
Jesus took the gift you gave And that's why I'm here today

Chorus:

Thank you for giving to the Lord I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord I am so glad you gave

Verse 3:

One by one they came Far as the eyes could see
Each life somehow touched By your generosity
Little things that you had done Sacrifices made
Unnoticed on the earth In heaven now proclaimed

And I know that up in heaven You're not supposed to cry
But I am almost sure There were tears in your eyes
As Jesus took your hand And you stood before the Lord
He said, "My child look around you For great is your reward."

Chorus:

Thank you for giving to the Lord I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord I am so glad you gave
(repeat chorus)

"Thank You" Words and Music by Ray Boltz CCLI Song # 31126
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"Go Rest High on That Mountain" by Vince GillVerse 1:

I know your life On earth was troubled And only you could know the pain
You weren't afraid to face the devil You're no stranger to the rain

Chorus:

Go rest high on that mountain 'Cause Son your work on earth is done
Go to heaven a-shoutin' Love for the Father and the Son

Verse 2:

Oh, how we cried the day you left us We gathered 'round your grave to grieve
Wish I could see the angels faces When they hear your sweet voice sing

Chorus:

Go rest high on that mountain 'Cause Son your work on earth is done
Go to heaven a-shoutin' Love for the Father and the Son

Go rest high on that mountain 'Cause Son your work on earth is done

Go to heaven a-shoutin' Love for the Father and the Son

Go to heaven a-shoutin' Love for the Father and the Son

“Go Rest High on That Mountain” Words and Music by Vince Gill
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