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What do you want to be able to say at the end of your life?

2 Timothy 4:4-8 (NASV) - ⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

<u>John 19:28 (NKJV) - ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing[a] that all things were now accomplished,... He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.</u>

What do you want other people to say about your life?

"People will summarize your life in one sentence, pick it now." - John Maxwell

<u>Hebrews 12:1 -</u> ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us....

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." - Mae West

Why do people waste their lives? Part of it is they think they'll live forever.

"Everybody knows they're going to die, but nobody believes it. If we did, we would do things differently." - Morrie Schwartz

<u>Luke 12:16-21</u> - ¹⁶Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. ¹⁹And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!" ²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for? ²¹"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

<u>Matthew 16:26 - ²⁶</u>They think things will fulfill them outside of Christ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

How do you not waste your life?

First, fully devote your life to God.

<u>Luke 12:29-32</u> - ²⁹ "And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. ³⁰ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. ³¹ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. ³² "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom

John 2:5 - ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Is Jesus the Lord of your life or just your savior? When He's Lord, you give every area of your life over to Him, not just some. The people God used in the most significant ways are people who keep saying yes to Him.

"God can do amazing things and take you on an amazing journey in your life if you let him. If you surrender your life." - Mike Steidel

What is on the other side of your yes? See what God can do through you. This is the answer to all of your questions: If he's dealing with you to give your life to Him, do it. If he's dealing with you to forgive, do it. If he's dealing with you to take a courageous step, do it. If he's dealing with you to stop going to certain places, do it. If He deals with you to stop drinking, do it. If He deals with you to serve somewhere, do it.

<u>Isaiah 6:8-9 -</u> ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ⁹He said, "Go, and tell this people..."

Second, raise a family of world changers.

<u>Joshua 24:15</u> - ¹⁵But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

You don't find a great godly family, you build one.

<u>Proverbs 24:3 (Passion Version)</u> - ³"Wise people are builders – they build families, business, marriages, and communities through hard work and sacrifice, little by little, one day at a time."

"The greatest thing you do may not be something you do, but someone you raise." – *Andy Stanley*

Third, give your life away.

<u>1 John 3:16</u> - ¹⁶We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

If you want to change the world, then start caring for what God cares for: the lost. Do

you care about the lost?

<u>Romans 9:2-3</u> - ²My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.

Ordinary people are the only kind God uses. There are not great men and women of God, there is only a great God! 92% of Jesus ministry took place outside of the 4 walls. Just be you. Start praying, "God, help me be closer to you today, mold me to be more like you, and use me in the lives of others today."

"Ministry is not a job, ministry is who you are, where you are." - Bruce Bickel

Lastly, live with the knowledge that there is always hope in Christ.

<u>1 Corinthians 13:13</u> - ¹³Three things will last forever--faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love.

"Lord, help us realize the brevity of this life, and the beauty of the next." - Max Lucado

"When we get to the end of this journey, there won't be anyone there with a formula or a plan, but they'll be whole lot of people just speaking the name of Jesus Christ. All through Heaven and Eternity when people ask how did you get here, how did you get through? Jesus! I don't need any other name. I don't need any other plan." - Carter Conlon