

by Rev. Scott Deneen

Pastor to Youth and Families

Don't Waste Your Life

I don't know about you but I *hate* doing things that don't matter. "Busy work" is what it's called. I once had a teacher who made students copy pages out of the dictionary just to keep them busy – yuck. Reminds me of a movie I saw (*Cool Hand Luke*) where a prisoner was made to shovel a dirt pile from one spot to another. When he finished, the guard made him move it back to the original spot! Oomph!! Sadly, many of us live our lives in the same manner – being extremely busy but for things that don't matter.

During some study this week, I came across this idea: *Better to lose your life than waste it.* Being captivated by the idea, I read on...

"If our single, all-embracing passion is to make much of Christ in life and death, and if the life that magnifies Him most is the life of costly love, then life is risk, and risk is right. To run from it is to waste your life." *Don't Waste Your Life*, John Piper. Pg 79.

What Dr. Piper is talking about is that there are two ways to live your life – one way wastes your life, the other may require you to lose it, but losing it is certainly better than wasting it. Allow me a few paragraphs to explain.

Jesus said in Luke 9, *"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."*

Jesus is talking about living for 'Self' OR living for God – and you cannot do both. Either you will put yourself on the throne of your life and live for yourself OR you will submit to God's rule in your life and live for Him.

When we live for ourselves, we may think we're truly living life but Jesus warns us that this sinful orientation only reaps destruction. However, the person who gives his life away to God through faith in Christ will receive it back (eternally speaking). The former loses his life even though he tries to 'save' it, but the latter gets life because he gave it away (to God).

The only things in life that last are those things that God says honor Christ, are done by faith in Jesus, and done for Jesus' glory. Everything else is just a waste of time/effort/money/etc. Remember, both types of people lose their lives... but only one gets it back again. So, have the faith to give your life away to Christ. And when you do, you will find that you've lost nothing because you've gained Him in return!

Finding My Joy in Jesus,
Pastor Scott

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose."

*Jim Elliot
Missionary*

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Sunday Nights

Bible Study
6:00 - 7:30pm

Wednesday Nights

Open Gym, Eat Out, etc.
6:30 - 8:00pm

Children's Ministry

Infant - 5th grade

Sunday Nights

Nursery

Infant - 2 yrs.
6:00 - 7:30pm

M&M Kids

Mission Minded
3 yrs. - 4 yrs.
6:00 - 7:30pm

Imagebearers

Kindergarten - 5th grade
6:00 - 7:30pm

So what do most children list as their goals in playing sports? Experts report that children play sports to have fun, develop their skills and make new friends.

Source: Seefeldt, Ewing, & Walk, 1992

To keep sports fun for your child:

- Emphasize skill development, not winning.
- Maintain realistic expectations.
- Stay positive. Avoid criticizing your child's play.
- Keep in mind that if sports become work, they're no longer fun.



Kids ask tough questions...

At the basketball skills clinic, players were given an "Open Mike" opportunity to ask our pastors a question. Here's one answered by Pastor Dave.



Q. Is there a flower that represents or reminds us of Jesus' death?

Yes, there is. I had heard of this before... but as so much else of what I've learned, I had forgotten. So, the girl who asked this question is the one who told us at our question and answer meeting that it is the dogwood flower (sorry I didn't get her name.)

Here's how: two of the dogwood flower petals are long, two are short so the flower is shaped like a cross; the flower's center looks like a thorny crown; and, each leaf has an indentation at the end with brown coloration which is said to represent nail prints and Jesus' blood.



Photos compliments of Malcolm Mize

Hebrews 13:5b

For He
Himself has
said, "I will
never leave
you nor
forsake you."

Thank You for Participating with us!

We hope you are enjoying the season!

Thankful for Kids



Later this month you'll most likely find yourself sitting around the table with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving. If your family is like mine, it's almost become cliché to offer up the obligatory thanks for the blessings of material abundance and close relationships that we've been blessed with by God. When you have a lot, it's very easy to get lulled to sleep and not appreciate what you've been given.

The Psalmist writes, "Don't you see that children are God's best gift? The fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the kids of a vigorous youth. Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children!" (Psalm 127:3-5, MSG).

This Thanksgiving, keep the Psalmist's words in mind as you look around the table at your kids. They're rewards from God given to you as a sign of God's favor. When you face difficult times with your kids - and you will - always remember that the children God gave to you as gifts *remain* gifts. . . even during the teenage years. Then, give thanks!

By Walt Mueller,
President, CPYU



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Sunday Morning

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Sunday Evening

6:00 Care Groups

Youth Activities

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner