



Purposeful Living Seminar

September 13, 2009 by Mark Bickel

Vision : 10+ Years from Now	Goals : Next 3-5 yrs	Actual : Past Week
Priorities : In Order, First on Top		

Comments :

I] Setting _____ for Life: The Love of _____ Alone.

A) God is Number 1 - Deuteronomy 5: 6-10

B) There is no #2, #3 ... - II Timothy 2 : 1-7

C) All of Life lived for God; ask Him what His priorities are

Do not subdivide who is in control!

Personal:

Ministry:

Life:

Example: each night pray: Have I done the 1 thing needful today?
What is God's Perspective on my day?
One Area to pray for / have faith for tomorrow.

Note: Actual Life is a Reflection of True Priorities

II] Establishing _____ for Growth: Maturity in _____

A) Know the Bible

- Ephesians 4:11-16

1) Master the Word - 2 Timothy 2:15

2) Understand Foundational Doctrines - Hebrews 5:11 - 6:2

3) Learn Your History - "Remember"

B) Renew Your Mind

1) Academics - Daniel 10:12 ; Mark 12:20

Engineers - Tower of Babel, Architecture, Creativity

Artists - Bazellel and Tabernacle / Temple, Beauty, Idolatry

Business - Money and Management, Business Ethics

Humanities - Literary styles , Content, Relations of People, Cultures

Scientist - Ordered Design, God gives feeds cattle, Heavens declare Glory

Psychologist - Heart, Sanctification, Suffering, Gospel Changes us

2) Discernment - 1 John 4:1

3) Thinking - Romans 12: 1-2

C) Develop Ministry Skills

1) Use Gifts - 1 Corinthian 12

2) Develop Leadership - 1 Timothy 3

3) Get Mentored

D) Personal Life

- 1) Character - Galatians 5: 16-26 , Matthew 5-7 , Ephesians 4-6
- 2) Practical Life Skills
- 3) Discipline

Make it Real

Set aside time THIS WEEK to go through attached goals sheet (at end of packet) and fill in a few goals for the next 3-4 years of your life.

Do not worry about how they would be accomplished yet, just dream big! Make goals that would be worth living up to!

Pray, asking God to expand your vision, and to help you in the coming weeks to better plan how to work toward those goals (also knowing God may choose to teach you some of these things in unplanned ways as well!)

III] Creating a _____ to live by: Disciplines of a _____

- Ephesians 2:10

A) School and Job are Work

- 1) Work is part of the Created Order - Genesis 1 - 2
- 2) Do Your Work Excellently - Ephesians 6: 5-9
- 3) Put work in its Proper Place - Luke 16:1-13

Application:

B) The Sabbath is not Work

- Deuteronomy 5:12-15, Mark 2:27-28

- 1) We were designed to Work and Rest
- 2) God is Worthy of a Day of Worship
- 3) It is a day of Joy, not a Burden

Application:

C) Time for Relationships

- 1) Personal Time with God
- 2) Scheduled Times with God's Family
- 3) Taking Time for People
- 4) Ministry Planning and Praying on your own

Application:

D) Time for Life

- 1) Recreation / Down Time
- 2) Eating (note: this makes GREAT people time!)
- 3) Sleeping
- 4) Misc errands email, etc.
- 5) Reading, Working towards long-term goals.

E) FLEX TIME!

-Expect the unexpected

**** SOME PRACTICAL SCHEDULING NOTES ****

*** You need a Regular Schedule / Routine to stay Focused**

*** BE REAL**

- 1) Not to rigid
- 2) Not to Tight
- 3) Not to full

*** Re-evaluate**

- 1) Occasionally take a week and write down everything you do as you do it
- 2) Find wasted time and reclaim it
- 3) See if you are following the schedule, and if not adjust you or it
- 4) Double check the 3-4 year goals - are they getting met?

Make it Real

After you work on your goals, take some time **this MONTH to work on a realistic schedule** that reflects God's priorities. **Share that schedule with someone** else and ask them for input. Also ask them to pray for you and ask you next week how you are doing at living out the priorities God has set.

If you are a parent, you will also want to talk with the entire family about their schedules – help the kids set personal goals and evaluate their own schedules as well as setting family goals and family times in the schedule. Also discuss how their choices effect the rest of the family's ability to accomplish their goals (how running them to events effects your time, how your staying late at work effects their homework, etc).

IV] _____ each day with Purpose - Life in the _____

* Set Goals, then Plan Ahead, but then Let God Bring what He Wills

A) Tyranny of the Urgent (Mark 1:35-38)

	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important	20 - 25 %	65 - 80 %
Not Important	15 %	< 1%

1) Know Goals, Stay Focused on What God says is Important (John 6:38)

2) JUST SAY NO! (John 8:28-29)

B) Called, not Driven (John 4:34, John 17:4)

What's the Difference? The Heart!

C) Opportunities, not Interruptions (Ephesians 5: 15-17)

D) Use Time Wisely (as good stewards, not owners)

- 1) Reclaim lost time**
- 2) Control Time**
- 3) Muti-Task**
- 4) Integrate Various Tasks**
- 5) Balance Adjustments**

**** CONCLUSION : You will Reap what you Sow (Galatians 6:7-10)**

Seek First God and His Kingdom, and He will give what you need!

Make It Real

Maybe decide now on "typical week" that is coming up, and **record everything you do** that week, then evaluate how those things work toward or against your goals and what you could adjust. Some things to look for: Urgent taking charge, Laziness, Ways to reclaim lost time, Ways to accomplish multiple goals in a single task

Take some time around a dinner table to **think about / discuss the some of the “interruptions” to your day**, how did you / could you turn those into opportunities, and how did you/ could you best adjust the rest of the day around those interrutions.

** NOTE: Same principles can be applied to other areas of life, for example:

Purposeful Finances

- God is Priority, He is # 1, No number 2 – All money, possessions, everything comes from him and is his, we are simply stewards
- Set goals – include using your money to grow in knowing God, for his church, for advancing the kingdom, for family and neighbor, for enjoying the life God has provided
- Make a budget – decide what goes where, remember to be generous, to sacrifice for the kingdom, to help brothers and neighbors with less than you (poor here and around the world), do enjoy what God has provided, but also be content and willing to part with it as well
- Look at the unexpected as opportunities – to bless others, for your growth, for weaning your heart from things that are lost, for being exceptionally generous with unexpected blessing, for reminding you this is not your home and setting your heart more fully on things above
- You will reap what you sow – God blesses obedience in finances, good stewardship, and generosity, with a right heart of worship. And if we store up treasure in heaven rather than on earth God's blessings will continue for eternity!

Optional: Personal or Small Group Questions (from student version of seminar)

NOTE : Do not spend more than half you time on the first 3 question, be sure you get good time on numbers 4 and 5. End with prayer and the challenge to go home and work on number 6 individually in the next few days, then get together and talk about it and pray for each other more specifically!

1) How should you respond to someone who says “God has called me to college, and so I should focus my time there. If I have school work, that is more important than going to Bible study right now. I have the rest of my life for ministry, right now I need to learn my major well”

2) How should you respond to someone who says “There are just so many needs around us, how can you spend so much time couped up in your room studying those things you’ll never use again anyway. I’m in these 3 great Bible studies, and this homeless ministry right now, and am looking for other ways to help the church. God doesn’t care about grades anyway, he cares about people”

3) How would you articulate a biblical view on God’s calling to us as students (i.e. what has God called us to, and how should we think about the relationship of the different components of life)?

** 4) What should our goals be for our time in college (for example, basic mastery of the entire Bible, learning how to think biblically and problem solve - both in my major and in life issues...)?

** 5) How do your priorities need to change FOR THIS TERM if you are going to move toward those goals?

6) Take some time THIS WEEK to work on a realistic schedule that reflects God’s priorities. Share that schedule with someone else and ask them for input. Also ask them to pray for you and ask you next week how you are doing at living out the priorities God has set (NOTE: I did not say “have you followed the schedule 100%”, but rather, with the schedule to guide you, have you lived purposefully, fulfilling God’s priorities in all the opportunities He has given this week).

Goals Worksheet

A) Know the Bible

- 1) Master the Word:

- 2) Understand Foundational Doctrines:

- 3) Learn Your History - “Remember”:

B) Renew Your Mind

- 1) Academics / Career:

- 2) Discernment:

- 3) Thinking:

C) Develop Ministry Skills

- 1) Use Gifts:

- 2) Develop Leadership:

- 3) Get Mentored:

D) Personal Life

- 1) Character:

- 2) Practical Life Skills:

- 3) Discipline:

E) Other Goals