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# God’s Opinion about Life’s Goals

“Do you wanna sell sugar water for the rest of your life or do you want to change the world?”

The year was 1983. Apple Computer, now known as simply Apple, was still in its infancy. Steve Jobs needed a new CEO (Chief Executive Officer) for his young company. Jobs offered the position to John Scully, the president of Pepsi.

A casual examination of the two positions would suggest that Scully would choose to stay at Pepsi. After all, Apple was much smaller than Pepsi. Apple’s total sales in 1983 were only eight hundred million dollars. By contrast, Pepsi’s worldwide renown created sales of nearly eight *billion* dollars or ten times Apple’s sales.

How could Jobs convince Scully to leave Pepsi for the much smaller Apple? He gave Scully the opportunity of a lifetime. Steve Jobs asked, “John, do you wanna sell sugar water for the rest of your life or do you want to *change the world?”*

Scully accepted the challenge. He accepted the opportunity to change the world. Apple’s sales increased *tenfold* during Scully’s ten years with the company. Of course, Apple has continued to grow…has now grown into the world’s largest company. Apple’s sales in 2020 were two hundred and sixty *billion* dollars. That means Apple’s sales have increased more than three hundred times since 1983 whereas Pepsi’s sales have increased only eight times. But who would have thought that degree of success would be on the horizon?

But imagine the challenge! “John, *do you want to change the* ***world****?”*

Truly, Apple has changed the world as no other company before it. *But its impact is actually quite small when compared with the gospel of Jesus Christ.* Apple’s products, while amazing today, will be obsolete tomorrow and need re-invention. But the gospel of Jesus Christ will be as powerful, relevant and life-changing tomorrow, even in the next century, as it was in the days of the apostles.

Apple’s cell phone technology allows a person to communicate via video, voice or text with someone halfway around the world. Its FaceTime app leaves me in wonderment…and thrilled at being able to watch my little grandchildren play in a distant location. But the gospel of Jesus Christ allows a person to travel beyond the Milky Way…to enter the very throne room of heaven and to speak with Him who is not only the Creator but also the believer’s Father, Savior and Comforter.

Apple’s skilled leadership has products on the drawing board which will not be seen by any of us for another five years. But God has something much bigger on the drawing board—a new heaven and a new earth in which “dwelleth righteousness.” Indeed, there will not even be a need for Apple in that day!

Contrast the two! The contrast between Apple and Pepsi is indeed stunning, but the contrast between Apple and Almighty God is on a totally different level.

***This enormous contrast is the reason God’s opinion about my life’s goals is so important.***

One day God asked some men, “Do you want to sell fish for the rest of your lives or do you want to change the world? Which decision will it be?”

“As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He says to them, ‘Come! Follow Me! and I will make you fishers of men.’Immediately they, leaving their nets, followed Him. Going on from there Jesus saw two other brothers, James (the *son* of Zebedee) and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets; and Jesus called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in the people’s synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.And the news about Him spread throughout Syria. The people brought to Him all who were ill, those who were sick having various diseases and severe pain, the demon-possessed, people with epilepsy, and people who were paralyzed; and He healed them” (Matthew 4:18-24).

Try to visualize this incredible life-changing scene in your mind. These men are working in their boat, look up and see Jesus strolling along the seashore. There is no big announcement of His coming. There is nothing to suggest a life-changing offer is about to be made. No drum roll. No press corps. Nothing written in the heavens or the clouds. Nothing spectacular at all. Just a normal workday.

Then it happens. Jesus stops. It is as if Jesus waves His arm and says, “Come and follow Me!” Peter, Andrew, James and John immediately leave their nets and follow Jesus. In so doing, they begin a journey which is *still continuing* two thousand years later. Jesus promised, “Where I am, there shall My servant be” (John 12:26). What a guarantee! Two thousand years have passed and they are still walking with Jesus.

1,944 years from now they will say the same thing about me. I began my walk with Jesus on January 14, 1965 at Ice Creek Baptist Church. Someday I, like them, will leave this world, but, even then, I will still be walking with Jesus…and doing so for all eternity!

**Always remember this: “Come! Follow Me!” is the greatest invitation any of us will ever receive.**

The truth is these four men *lived more* in these six verses than they had lived in the totality of their lives to this point. Or *would live* in the rest of their lives if they chose to stay with their fishing nets!

The same words can we be written about every reader of this book. There is indeed a life worth living; at the same time there is a life of questionable value or, even sadder to say, worthless value. Therefore, how will we be graded as to our value?

Principles about Life

If a person chooses to live his life in a helter-skelter manner, he is already beyond hope. It is well said that, “The man who aims at nothing also hits nothing.” Such a man’s self-determined lifestyle of randomness (dealing with whatever comes but with no preconceived strategy) has no anchor such as one develops through a carefully designed value system.

However, most people earnestly want to accomplish something of value. They want to be more than just an “oxygen thief.” Thus, they diligently chart a course for the future with the hope of arriving at an appropriate destination. Such a course may be thoroughly prepared in step-by-step fashion or it may merely follow some very general principles.

Regardless of the depth of preparation, this course should recognize five basic principles about life.

*First, life is brief.* “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin” (James 4:13-17, ESV). Life is brief even if one lives to be a centenarian. Therefore, should our primary goal for life also be brief?

*Second, life is eternal.* This statement creates a paradox, “life is brief but at the same time life is eternal.” However, both statements are accurate because a man never dies in the sense he ceases to exist. “Let the unrighteous go on in unrighteousness; let the filthy still be filthy; let the righteous go on in righteousness; let the holy still be holy” (Revelation 22:11, CSB) describes the existence of man after this life…in eternity! The Bible makes it clear the soul of man will exist throughout eternity. Therefore, should eternity be considered in the establishment of one’s goals?

Third, life’s accomplishments and decisions affect generations to come. Adam’s decision to eat of the forbidden fruit brought all future men into a state of condemnation and sinfulness before God. A parent’s rejection of God’s salvation may influence his children to do the same; in turn, those children may affect their own children in a similar way. Indeed, some of God’s Old Testament curses extended into the fourth generation (Exodus 34:7). The applications for this principle, both good and bad, are as vast as the sea. Thus, should we consider how our goals will affect future generations?

*Again, life consists of how we spend our time*. Daniel Webster poses the question, “Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time for that is the stuff life is made of.” Everyone knows time is valuable, but how, though, do we actually spend our time? Do we “major on majors and minor on minors” or “major on minors and minor on the most important priorities?”

It would be wise to maintain a thorough time log or diary for thirty days every year. This time log will clearly reveal how we allocate our time. It will also give us opportunity to reflect upon whether we have wisely used those thirty days. Unfortunately, man is very forgetful and has a tendency to merely drift with the tide. We forget the incredible value of each month, of each day, of each hour! We need to be constantly reminded that “the time is short” (1 Corinthians 7:29). As a result, should we monitor our time more closely?

*Fifth, life can be wasted.* My wife teaches her church children to sing “The House on the Rock” (Matthew 7:24-27). That precious song expresses one of the most important life principles of all. The house built upon the rock pictures the life built upon the greater Rock, Jesus Christ. That house survived the many storms of life. However, a second house was built upon the constantly shifting sand. Its foundation was sinking, unstable sand. Sadly, that house (life) fell beneath the onslaught of the same storms. The Bible emphasizes, “And great was the fall of it!” What a waste! Therefore, should a person periodically review his value system for any necessary revisions? Should he also compare his desired values with his realized (experienced) values? “What a man does is more a reflection of what a man values than what he says!”

We should never overlook that life is a gift which can be used or abused. It is not enough to merely possess life. Life must be embraced. Values must be determined. Decisions must be made. Challenges must be faced.

Common Errors in Choosing Goals

The skill of choosing the right goals must, by necessity, include the skill of *not choosing* the wrong goals. It would be a horrible thing to live an entire life only to reach the end and realize your value system, and resulting goals, were wrong. King Saul of Israel reached death’s door and lamented, “I have played the fool and have erred exceedingly” (1 Samuel 26:21). Saul was out of time; there was no opportunity to make any corrections.

There are six common errors in how people choose their goals.

*Error #1—Focus upon things instead of people.* The book of Ecclesiastes demonstrates the Preacher’s incredible thirst for things…for everything! The hedonistic lifestyle is fully displayed on center stage in the first eleven chapters. Nothing is left untried! *Everything and everyone* gets used, even used up in satisfying one man’s insatiable thirst. Ultimately, Solomon comes to his senses and writes a report about his vain pursuit. The ultimate summary (written thirty-seven times) consists of the ill-fated words, “Vanity of vanities.” The phrase could also be rendered “absolute nothingness, emptiness, worthlessness, or meaningless.” Such is the logical end of a life focused upon things because things, even good things, are only temporary. But people live forever. Forever is a very long time. Therefore, should our primary goals be about temporal things or eternal people?

*Error #2—Focus upon time instead of eternity.* The true measure of a man, though, is not in how he is measured by time (temporal) but by eternity (permanent). The biographer correctly frames the discussion by asking, “How will history view this man?” It is true that history is not the ultimate judge (God alone is the ultimate judge), but history remains the next best thing. History has a knack for placing things, events and people in their historical context. As a result, today’s events are not always what they seem! Just thirty days of reflection may change how we view today’s events. Surprisingly, today’s success may actually be eternity’s failure. Today’s failure may actually be eternity’s success.

Someone suggested, “Aim high. It costs no more to shoot at eagles than at skunks.” That is true! However, there is a great difference in how the world defines “high” and God defines “high.”

Luke 12:16-21 reveals eternity’s view of the richest man in the land. Jesus saw this man in a much different light than the poor people who lived in the man’s community. The poor normally envy the rich, but Jesus regarded the rich man as a fool. Jesus said, “You fool! I will demand your soul from you this very night. To whom will your possessions then belong? So is he who is rich in the eyes of man but poor in the eyes of God.” Since God is the Master of eternity (and eternity’s perspective), does it not make sense to view our goals from an eternal perspective?

*Error #3—Focus upon immediate results instead of sowing results.* Unfortunately, far too many Americans have a tendency to live solely in the moment. Their compulsive need for “immediacy” creates many difficulties in the future. One age-old tendency known as “new car fever” often leads to buying a bigger car than one can afford. The investment strategy of long-term “buy and hold” investing has been replaced by day trading and even minute by minute trading (surveys show most day traders underperform the overall market). “What have you done for me lately” has been replaced by, “What have you done for me today?”

By contrast, sowing understands the relationship between planting a seed today that produces fruit, not tomorrow, but sometime in the future, even distant future. Sowing views life as a process, understands life includes both up and down cycles (Ecclesiastes 3), requires the exercise called patience (Hebrews 11:8-10), and understands the sower reaps more than he sowed *if* he allows the process to reach its final stage.

Regrettably, most people overemphasize what can be accomplished in a short time but underemphasize what can be accomplished in a long time. Scientist Albert Einstein says, “The greatest miracle of all is the miracle of compounded interest.” Every successful investor knows that principle to be true! Investor Warren Buffet often reminds us, “You sit in the shade today because someone planted a tree many years ago.” Thus, should our goals be in accordance with the sowing principle?

*Error #4—Focus on incompatible goals.* Some people are fooled into pursuing something which is actually contrary to their values. Such was the case with Lot, Abraham’s nephew. God “rescued righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the perverted conduct of unscrupulous people(for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds)” (2 Peter 2:7-8, NASB). Lot was a walking contradiction! He protected God’s angels from being desecrated by the sodomites but offered his own daughters to be desecrated. Should our goals be clearly written then compared with our actual deeds?

*Error #5—Focus on the seen rather than the unseen.* On the contrary, man needs to think on a deeper level! This particular error occurred the first time in the Garden of Eden and resulted in a curse upon all of creation. “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took some of its fruit and ate” (Genesis 3:6, NASB). The most important part of life is not that part outside a person but that part inside a person. Beauty is truly only skin deep, but the soul/being of man is so deep it has yet to be found by modern medicine. Do our goals emphasize that which is unseen such as the needs of the human heart, especially one’s spiritual needs?

*Error #6—Focus on the pleasure instead of the consequences.* The Bible describes the majority of mankind as being “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:4). That knowledge leads to the warning, “One who loves pleasure *will become* a poor person; One who loves wine and oil will not become rich” (Proverbs 21:17, NASB). This warning demonstrates there is a clear relationship between pleasure and consequences; woe to the person who ignores such a warning. Accordingly, will our goals lead to unwanted consequences?

These six errors can very easily slip into our thoughts and behavior. Life can indeed become very complicated and, at times, too complicated for our feeble minds. Is there a solution which simplifies life and reduces it to some very basic principles? Yes!

God’s Goals for us are the Best Goals

“Come! Follow Me!” Peter, Andrew, James and John rose up, left their nets and followed Jesus for the rest of their days…and their lives were never again the same. In so doing, they embraced the best and highest possible goals for any human being.

“Follow Me.” That is a different instruction than “read your Bible, be a good parent, don’t steal from your neighbor, keep sex within the boundary of marriage, be honest, don’t murder, and pay your correct taxes.” Yes, it is different from anything and everything we hear from secular television, secular radio, secular education or secular religion. But that should not surprise us because *it is the voice of God speaking* and God is not secular.

How do we spend our lives? It is estimated that a life spanning seventy years will be spent in the following ways: three years in education, eight years in amusements, six years at the dinner table, five years in transportation, four years in conversation, fourteen years in work, three years in reading, twenty-four years in sleeping, and three years dealing with a health problem.

Notice, though, that something as basic as church attendance is not mentioned. There are two reasons. First, many people do not attend church. Second, even faithful church attendance does not absorb much time. The person who attends a ninety-minute service each Sunday *and* spends ten minutes a day in prayer will spend only ten months in such activities. Not even one year!

But “Come! Follow Me!” is good for three hundred sixty-five days a year for as long as we live. “Come! Follow Me!” is God’s goal for each one of His children. **He calls us to be *with* Him in order that we might be *like* Him!** The first (the cause) leads to the second (the effect) and the second always predates effective Christian ministry. However, we can accomplish nothing if we are not first with Him! “For without Me, you can do nothing!” (John 15:5).

“Come! Follow Me!”

“**The obedient Christian follows Christ everywhere. He does not hold back, does not hesitate. The Christian life includes obedience in all places.” (Lee Roberson)**

What exactly does it mean to “Come! Follow Me!”?

*First, “Come! Follow Me!” requires submission to God’s will.* This is a big picture item and it will be followed in item two by a specific picture item. The greatest prayer for any Christian is, “Father, not my will but Thy will be done.” The Apostle Paul began his ministry by asking, “Lord or Master, what will You have me to do?” Isaiah prayed, “Here am I, Lord. Send me.” Peter said, “We have left all to follow Thee.”

Jesus says to everyone reading these pages, “Follow Me. Get to know Me. Walk with Me where I walk. Be My disciple. Imitate Me. Let Me be the Potter and you be the clay.”

*Second, “Come! Follow Me!” requires acceptance of God’s plan for every part of your life.* That plan is revealed throughout the Word of God. It must be emphasized over and over again the Bible is a complete manual for the complete life of every child of God. The book of Psalms begins with these words: “How happy is the man who does not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path of sinners or join a group of mockers!Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.He is like a tree planted beside streams of water that bears its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers” (Psalm 1:1-3, HCSB). But the next six words say, “But not so with the wicked.” The rest of the Psalm identifies the reasons for the wicked man’s failure.

The Bible plainly indicates, “You can never out-smart God. You can never out-give God. You can never out-skill God. You can never out-invest God. You can never out-live God. *You can never out-succeed God either.”*

I accepted God’s complete plan for my life more than forty-five years ago. I can confidently affirm that I would not change that decision. Not one iota. As a matter of fact, I have never even once considered changing that decision!

Did I change the world? No. Nor will you. But God used me to change many people in *my* world—the world in which God placed me. Personally, I am thrilled just to be part of God’s team! I am continually thankful that He said, “Tom, come! Follow Me!”

You may be a preacher, a businessman, a factory worker or a stay-at-home mother but I urge you to be sensitive to God and accept God’s complete plan for your life including your time, relationships, finances, influence, etc. He is calling you daily to Himself…show up for duty with a yielded, Spirit-filled heart!

*Third, “Come! Follow Me!” assigns all the glory to God*. Paul taught the Corinthians, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31, NASB). “Do all to the glory of God” means “live your life to exalt God, praise God, magnify God and represent God.”

I once worked for a man who had the opposite philosophy on life, even though he claimed to be a Christian. He was constantly promoting himself, even at the expense of his employees. In effect, we were his stepping stone to greater success (including a larger salary). He told me, “If I don’t promote myself, no one else will.” He ignored God’s opinion that, “Promotion does not come from the east, the west or the desert, but it is God who puts down one and lifts up another” (Psalm 75:6-7).

Don’t be one of those people that blows your own trumpet! Instead, be like the Apostle Paul. Paul said, “God forbid that I should glory in anything except the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14).

**The Bible makes it plain that no one—absolutely no one—can do better with your life than Jesus!**

Peter, Andrew, James and John trusted Jesus with their lives, including their goals. They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus. They made the most of their opportunity! But suppose they had stayed with their nets. Suppose they had said, “Not today” or “Come back next week” or “I’ll contact you when it is convenient.” They would have missed their opportunity to do something of eternal significance.

The evangelist Charles Finney talks about a wealthy lawyer who received Christ as his Savior. The lawyer then did something very unusual. He executed a formal deed in complete legal terminology by which he conveyed himself, his powers, and his possessions to God. In other words, he made a commitment of his complete life to the Lord Jesus Christ. This lawyer dedicated his life to walking with Jesus. In the years that followed he became a better lawyer but an even better Christian!

There is an old motto: “You need to first be right and do right before you can help others to be right and do right.”

“Come! Follow Me!” will help you to be right and do right.

The Outcome of Choosing Christian Goals

Christian missionary and martyr Jim Elliot said, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep *to gain what he cannot lose.”*

There is no question that “Come! Follow Me!” produces more gain than loss because it is God’s gain rather than worldly gain. How can one measure or weigh a life that is well spent? Such a life is multi-dimensional in that it touches every sphere of one’s existence. Even so, it is possible to identify the most basic measurements by following the journey of these four fishermen with Jesus.

*First, these four men were privileged to walk with God in human flesh.* Not for a brief time as in the case of God walking with Adam in the Garden of Eden. Nor for a brief time as with God meeting Abraham on the eve of Sodom’s destruction. But for more than three years! “Whom our hands have handled…” (1 John 1:1). They were witnesses of at least three resurrections including the resurrection of Lazarus. One of them actually walked on the water with Jesus. Another one brought a little boy to Jesus; that little boy’s lunch soon became a meal for a crowd of 5,000. A third listened and heard the very heartbeat of God the Son. The fourth was present on the Mount of Transfiguration and saw things “I ain’t never seen before.”

We today have the wonderful privilege to walk with God in spirit. “Behold, I am with you unto the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20) is more than a promise…it is also a reality. I, like them, am in the process of **knowing** **or experiencing** Almighty God—the most awesome Being that anyone can ever know. He is more than a Deity to me. He is also my Friend, my Strength, my Salvation, my Light, my Life, my Way, my Sword and Shield, my Resurrection, my Provider, my ever-present Help in time of need, plus so much more. Amazingly, that same God is responsible for my future Home. “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling placeof God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God’” (Revelation 21:3, ESV).

*Second, these men became something they would otherwise never have become.* Jesus enrolled them in His school called “Fishermen for the Souls of Men.” “I will make you or design you to be fishermen for the souls of men.” In so doing, Jesus deemed that calling to be higher than any earthly calling.

Today Jesus enrolls all of His children in that same school because we are to be like Him in His mission. He came into the world “to seek and save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Therefore, “He that wins souls is wise” (Proverbs 11:30). “Those who turn many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3). Such a calling produces eternal results because salvation is for eternity!

*Third, these men committed their future to Jesus.* All they knew was, “Follow Me.”The destination was unknown, the pay was unknown, the next location was unknown, even the response of others was unknown. But they did know the Master and they trusted the Master with their lives.

What about me? *I can either fear the unknown or I can believe in the known God.* Jesus said on the eve of His crucifixion, “You believe in God, believe also in Me.” They chose to believe. And I believe, too. How about you?

*Fourth, these men chose to walk by faith rather than by sight.* They didn’t know what was ahead, but they said, “Lord, here am I. Use me.” Jesus said, “’Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?’” (John 11:40, NASB). They believed and they then saw! John kept believing or faithing and writes sixty years later, “This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Faith admonishes, “Never doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light.” God proved His credibility by being faithful to these four men even in their dark hours. Likewise, our God will be faithful to all of us who walk by faith! “He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

*Fifth, these men regularly sowed or invested their lives in others.* As noted before, Jesus promised to make them fishers of *others*. They were not to live for themselves but for others. Their primary purpose was to point others to Jesus Christ. Not living for self but living for others. Not living for pleasure but living for others. Not living for wealth but living for others. Everything else was secondary. And it worked! The book of Acts shows what God can do when we sow our lives in others.

The Apostle Paul invested his life in the “others” at Thessalonica. He, too, rejoiced in the results of sowing! He writes, “For who is our hope or joy or crown of boasting in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you?” (1 Thessalonians 2:19, HCSB).

“Others, Lord, yes, others, Let this my motto be,

Help me to live for others that I may live like Thee!”

Charles D. Meigs

*Sixth, these men became special despite being ordinary, uneducated, and lacking talent.* Those items matter in the physical world but not in the spiritual world. The Bible emphasizes, “Success is not by human might, nor by human power but by My Spirit, says the Lord God” (Zechariah 4:6). “Without Me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5). “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

Peter, the vacillating one grew up to become Peter, the rock. Peter’s sermon on Pentecost is one of the greatest sermons in the history of Christianity (Acts 2). Peter later opened the door to the Gentiles (Acts 10) and, in so doing, established the pattern of today’s Christianity.

Andrew, the fisherman, became an excellent “fisher of men.” Andrew is mentioned only three times in the Gospels and on each occasion he is bringing someone to Christ. Andrew brings his brother Simon to Jesus in John 1. He brings a lad to Jesus in John 6. He brings the Greeks to Jesus in John 12. What a way to remember him!

James and John began with a reputation as “the sons of thunder” (Mark 3:17). James became a member of Jesus’ inner circle. He became the first apostle to die for the Christian faith. His brother John lived to be an old man and became known as the “apostle of love” rather than the “son of thunder.”

Not bad for being ordinary, uneducated, and lacking talent!

B. R. Lakin expands the list by stating, “Saul, the apostate, was changed into Paul, the beloved apostle, by the magic of the gospel’s power. Luther, the ‘bull,’ was transformed into the angel of the reformation when the light of its truth dawned upon his soul. Moody, the ‘shoe clerk,’ was changed into Dwight L. Moody, the ‘soul merchant,’ when its truth struck his heart.” (*You Can Be Sure,* pg. 30)

In each and every case, ordinary men experienced the transforming life of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Isn’t it amazing whom God can use?

*Seventh, these men heard the Lord’s “Well done!” when they entered heaven.* “Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10-11, ESV). “‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’” (Matthew 25:21, CSB).

“Well done!” In all honesty, do we yearn for anything more than our God’s “Well done!”? I think not. What more can there be than “Well done”?

It’s time to return to how we began this chapter and ask, “What about you? God is saying, ‘Do you want to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the rest of your life or do you want to change the world? Your world and the people around you?’”

During my teenage years I needed a cause…a cause for living. I am happy to say I accepted God’s opinion as my own goals. These words by John Peterson express my life-long cause better than me.

“I sought a flag to follow, a cause for which to stand,

I sought a valiant leader who could my love command,

I sought a stirring challenge, some noble work to try,

To give my life fulfillment, my dreams to satisfy.

I found them all in Jesus,

The Life, the Truth, the Way,

Beneath His flag I’ll take my stand

And follow Him today!”