

The Eternal Purpose

Big Idea: Either we live life on the seventy-year plan, as though this life is all there is, or we can devote ourselves to something that has value for eternity.

It's easy to exhaust ourselves just surviving, longing for the day when we can retire and relax. Isn't there more to life than that? There is. We can be partners with God in an eternal purpose right now.

1. What do you think about Bill's decision to stay with his job rather than taking a staff position at his church?

Bill will probably be more effective for the kingdom of God as an Insider in the marketplace than as a staff member in his church.

2. How would having an eternal perspective instead of living by the seventy-year plan affect your priorities?

My priorities become God's word and people versus anything else.

3. What are the costs of building your life around an eternal perspective and committing to give your life to others?

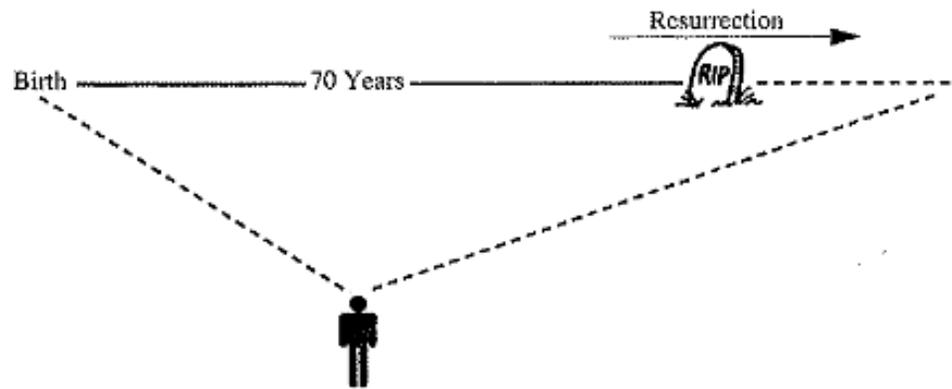
Loss of luxuries, titles, position, income, time for recreation, savings.

4. What are the rewards?

- Eternal rewards.
- New birth of believers.
- Reproduction.
- Deep relationships.
- Healthy personal relationship with God, family and friends.
- Intimacy with God.

5. What have you learned or gained from this series?

- God doesn't waste pain.
- Sin built one brick at a time must be torn down one brick at a time.
- Insight and understanding of competence, character and community.
- Don't go it alone, use a team approach.



6. What obstacles do you see?

7. What help do you need?

- Christ
- Community
- Ministry tools

Our walk with Christ is meant to be an adventure. But surrounding as we are by the pressures of modern society, it's not easy to keep the adventure alive. In the course of this book we have explored the elements that need to be present if the adventure is to endure. They can be summarized in the few statements that follow:

- Each of us is called to a living bond with Christ. This relationship is to be a two-way street between Him and us. As we need His Word and engage Him in our daily affairs, He engages us as well in His.
- We are also called into a living bond with one another. This implies that we are a safe place for each other to come to, where God empowers us to walk in truth and to overcome the things that have us in bondage.
- We can participate in the eternal purposes of God, whatever our situation. We are called to glorify God among the people who make up our networks for relationships. We should be looking to God to make us fruitful in the various contexts where we live out our lives.
- The Great Commission is really God's invitation to us to co-labor with Him in accomplishing His purposes among the nations. All of us, in some way, at some level, need to respond to this call.

Jim Petersen, *Lifestyle Discipleship*, pp. 190-191

Suggested Additional Reading:

Read chapter 12 of *Lifestyle Discipleship*