

WEEK THIRTY-NINE:

## “Balancing Your Life”

DAY ONE:

## “The Great Commission and the Great Commandment”

**Read:** Matthew 22:34-40; Matthew 28:16-20 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, pp. 1109, 1121)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 305 to bottom of p. 306

**Reflect:** In your life, taking the five purposes of worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship, and discipleship, which one of these five is not emphasized enough?

**Dig:** Look up the Matthew 22 quote in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 6:5, p. 199) and see if you can figure out what is added by Jesus. What are the four attributes of our humanity that are to be given to God?

Which of these four do you need to dedicate more completely to God?

Turning to Matthew 28:16-20, what is the last word in verse 17?

Why might that detail be a comfort to you?

How is the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) related to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)?

According to this passage, how are we to make disciples?

**Apply:** Whom are you discipling? To answer this question, think of people who look up to you. What in your life ought to change so that you are a more consistent mentor?

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DAY TWO:

### “Write it Down”

**Read:** Hebrews 2:1-4 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1420)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life*, middle of p. 308 to middle of p. 309

**Reflect:** Write down some changes in your life that have come about as a result of working through the *Purpose-Driven Life*:

**Dig:** To what must we pay careful attention?

Why must we pay careful attention?

What warning is given in verses 2-3 concerning drifting away?

The Old Testament is characterized as “the message spoken by angels” and the New Testament message is characterized as “such a great salvation.” Is the responsibility and accountability lesser or greater in the New Testament age?

How might you be drifting away?

**Apply:** In the space below, write out a prayer asking God to help you in a specific area in which you have been drifting away from God:

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DAY THREE:

## **“Pass On What You Know to Others”**

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:1-3 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1405)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life*, middle of p. 309 to middle of p. 310

**Reflect:** Make a list of all the people who you are currently sharing your life with in such a way that you could be called a mentor or example to them, in deepening their life in Christ.

Make a list of the first five people who come to your mind when you think of people who have been mentors or examples to you in your Christian life.

**Dig:** List the commands that you read in these three verses:

Beginning with Jesus teaching Paul and then Paul teaching Timothy, how many “generations” of handing down teaching is in mind in verse 2?

What kind of people are we supposed to invest our lives in?

What is the purpose of this training?

According to verse 1 and also verse 3, what would the people we are trying to influence see in us?

**Apply:** What hardship are you enduring that would allow others to see the grace of God in your life?

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DAY FOUR: **“It’s All For God’s Glory”**

**Read:** John 17:1-5 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1224)

**Read:** *Purpose-Driven Life*, middle of p. 310 to end of chapter

**Reflect:** What work or purpose do you think you were planned to accomplish on this earth...the reason that God placed you here?

**Dig:** How does Jesus define “eternal life”?

How is that different from the way that it is usually defined?

According to this definition, do you have eternal life?

What is the “work” that Jesus has to accomplish?

When was Jesus’ work finished? See John 19:30 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1228).

**Apply:** We were made for God’s glory. How is your life giving glory to God? What do you need to do in your life so that God’s glory shines more through you? What should you accomplish even today to bring glory to God?

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DAY FIVE:

## **“Blessed Are the Balanced”**

**Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:**

**“Live life with a due sense of responsibility, not as those who do not know the meaning of life but as those who do.” Ephesians 5:15 (Ph)**

*Lectio divina* (a Latin expression which means sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- *reading*: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- *meditation*: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- *prayer*: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer -- thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.