

How To Win At The Game Of Life

Knowing the rules of the game:

Genesis 1-3, Romans 5:12 & 6:23, James 4:13-17, Matthew 6:19-24, John 10:10

- ✓ We were never created to **die**.
- ✓ We are not **bodies** that have a **soul**.
We are **eternal souls** that for a short time have a **body**.
- ✓ This short life is my only **resume** for the **rest** of my life.

How to play with eternity in mind:

Luke 12:13-34, 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Peter 2:11

- ❶ Make decisions based more on **eternity** than **finances**.

Our **500 year** plan has to guide our **50 year** plan.

Never confuse where our true **home** and **riches** are.
- ❷ Make decisions based more on **holiness** than our **happiness**.
- ❸ Make sure that God's kingdom gets priority in our:

Time

Talents

Treasures

Food for Thought for the week of August 26, 2018
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. As we start this new sermon series “Why Am I Here?,” it’s important to pause and understand just how much God values each and every one of us. As you read through the following verses, how do they speak to how much God cares for us?

Romans 5:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:9-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Psalms 139:1-18 *New International Version (NIV)*

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

¹ You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,”
¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

- your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
- ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, ^[a] God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

How might the way God values us change how we value other people?

2. Ephesians 2:10 does a great job reinforcing the idea that we are all made for a purpose. As you read through the verse, try to summarize it in your own words.

Ephesians 2:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Have you seen any parts of Ephesians 2:10 play out in your life?

3. Chris talked about the importance of having a 500 year plan over a 50 year plan. On a separate sheet of paper, take a few minutes to write out how your 500 year plan looks and how your 50 year plan looks. Now compare and contrast the two plans, noting how they're similar and how they're different.

How might you explain to someone the importance of having a 500 year plan if they had never heard of the idea before?