

Session 12 – The Journey

1. Everyone is traveling through life on their way to one of two eternal destinations: heaven or hell. The issue for all people remains, “where will that destination be?”
2. Along the road of life, most people kind of hope they will somehow just end up in heaven. They think, “I’ve never killed anybody. When it comes down to it, people basically consider me a good, decent, and moral person. I’m sure I’ll go to heaven.” This foolish hope is similar to the person who jumps out of an airplane hoping they can pick up a parachute someplace on the way down. **Read 1 John 5:11-12.** Why do you have every confidence that your journey will end with the Lord in eternal splendor?
3. The atheist philosopher Nietzsche stated, “If you can find your ‘why’ to live, you can find your ‘how’.” Ironically, this quote came from a man who never discovered his ‘why’ in life. What is your ‘why’ in life?
4. God has made known to us our ‘why’ for living. He will always help us with the ‘how.’ The point of the journey is to:
 - Have ultimate _____ that God is a gracious and compassionate God Who reveals Himself to us in our King and Master Jesus Christ.
 - Believe the _____ that we are saved not because we are good, decent, spiritual, or religious, but because we have been made righteous by Christ’s all-sufficient sacrifice.
 - Know our _____ does not rest in what we have or what we produce, but in Who we belong to.
 - Have _____, _____, and _____ even in the midst of struggles and hardships. By virtue of His action and presence we can make the voyage of life with a confident and hope-filled faith.
 - To point away from ourselves and to point to our great God as the hero of all life and history! Glory to God!
5. Our journey through this course began with the quote, “Live the question.” *The question* is “What is the point of the journey of life?” Considering what you have studied in this course, what do you now know?
6. How does your answer to this question determine the remaining course of your life?
7. As you prepare for your confirmation into the Christian faith, you will be asked to make a public confession that Jesus Christ is your crucified, risen, and ascended Savior and Lord. **Read Matthew 10:32-33.** What is the importance of your public confession of Christ?
8. On your day of confirmation, you will be asked this question, “*Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?*” Is there anything that can keep you from making this confession?

9. In your opinion, what is the significance of making such a vow? **Read Deuteronomy 31:8.** What has God vowed to do?
10. Since the beginning of time, people have made vows to God. Some of those vows have been kept. Some have not. Over the ages, millions have promised to be faithful followers of Christ. Some have followed. Some did not. Lurking behind every denial of Christ throughout the duration of human history, there has been an excuse as to why the person was unable to be faithful unto death. Yet for all the excuses and reasons people have proposed over the generations for breaking their sacred vow, one simple fact remains. They caved in. They conformed. They conceded. They gave up. They traded in their vow for the conveniences and currencies of this world and they denied Christ. **Read Numbers 30:2.** Why will *you* take your vow seriously and how do you intend to keep that vow?
11. As you prepare yourself by Word and prayer for your pledge of faithfulness, ask yourself these questions. How:
- Does your vow before God make it completely unacceptable to become a casual, infrequent worshipper who drops in from time to time and then drops off?
 - Does this vow make it completely unacceptable for you to bring your children or friends to Bible study, yet neglect studying God's Word yourself?
 - Must your life at home be daily devoted to God through the reading of the Bible, prayer, and worship?
 - Does this vow make it completely unacceptable for you shirk the Holy Spirit's transformation by settling for conformity to the patterns of this age?
 - Does this vow compel you to support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?
12. Why is this vow the only confession that really counts in this world? **Read 1 Timothy 6:12 and Hebrews 12:1.** Why do you think faith in Christ is called the good fight?
13. The image of this eternal battle is perhaps best summed up in Martin Luther's great hymn of the Reformation:

*A mighty Fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
 He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
 The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe.
 With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
 On earth he has no equal.*

*No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.
 But now a Champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.
 You ask Who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He,
 Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
 He holds the field victorious.*

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,

*We tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage.
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.*

*God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!*

14. As you go forward to fight the good fight of faith, you do not go alone. Our Champion, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, holds the field victorious and fights by your side with weapons of His Spirit. As our Lord is the eternal Keeper of His Word, may the downpour of His Spirit keep you faithful in thought, word, and deed until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This class is not the end! **See Appendix H** for additional resources.