

1 2  **STEPS TO FINISHING LIFE WELL (PART 1)**

How do you keep from blowing it?

3 **RECEIVE THE LIGHT**4 **Colossians 2:1-3**

• *For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; 2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

5 **Root yourself in Christ**

- The Struggle of the Apostle
 - Paul was so filled with the love of Christ that he agonized over even those whom he not personally met – that they would be rooted in Christ.
- The Support of the Holy Spirit
 - To be comforted by having the Holy Spirit “called alongside.”
- The Stride of Christian Fellowship
 - To “stride together” in unity with fellow Christians.

6 **Root yourself in Christ (2)**

- *“Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein in thanksgiving.” (v. 7)*
 - Put down roots – to draw sustenance from Christ
 - Build up – to build on the foundation of the roots; to produce fruit
 - Established – standing firm on the unshakable foundation of Christ and what you “have been taught.”
 - Abound in thanksgiving for God’s truths.

7 **Revel in the treasure of Christ**

- “Take intense satisfaction or pleasure” = a real LOVE (the big secret)
- In the riches of Christ
 - πλοῦτος – “Filled with noble blessings”
 - Noble – Of high birth
 - Does your life show evidence of being filled with blessings of Christ that show to the world you are a child of the King of Kings?

8 **Revel in the treasure of Christ (2)**










- In the reassurance of Christ
 - πληροφορία – “A supreme fullness of divine working”
 - Christians should daily experience God working in their lives and this should reassure them of their:
 - Salvation
 - Sanctification
 - Security

9 **Revel in the treasure of Christ (3)**

- In the revelation of Christ
 - A mystery – “a truth peculiar to Christianity not discoverable by human reason but revealed by God”
 - The Tabernacle in the Old Testament is a mystery – how every last detail pictures Christ and His ministry and our relationship to Him.
 - The New Testament reveals what the Old Testament conceals.
 - This revelation of “God, and the Father, and Christ” continues through all of life.

10 **Colossians 2:4-7**

• *And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. 5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

- 11  **Retain disciplines of spiritual growth**
- "...*joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ...*" (v. 5)
 - τάξις – "good discipline, order"
 - στερεός – "stiff, obstinate, firm; healthy in an agricultural sense"
 - The weapons of our warfare are profoundly simple:
 - Prayer, Bible study, meditation, Christian fellowship
- 12  **Relate to Christ**
- Receive = "to take to oneself for fellowship"
 - Walk = "conduct yourselves; behave"
 - Applications:
 - Are you living in conscious fellowship with Christ?
 - Are you conducting your life...are you behaving as one who is in Christ?
 - Do you have the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, Christian fellowship, and meditation to help you stay faithful?
- 13  **Ripen in Christ**
- To grow in Christ, we must be thoroughly rooted in God's Word.
 - We must be taught the Word of God.
 - Family Integrated Bible Study
 - Faith Bible Institute
 - Expository preaching
 - But we must also learn to study it for ourselves and gain insights (rhemas) from our personal time in God's Word.
- 14  **Reevaluate using Christ**
- Ask the right question
 - Not, "What is wrong with that?"
 - Instead, "What is right with that? How does that make Christ preeminent in my life?"
 - Asking the right question can prevent you from compromise and from harmful addictions.
 - Our love for Christ should cause us to include Him as a part of every decision.
- 15  **Remember the fullness of Christ**
- "*For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*" (v. 9)
 - You have all you need in Jesus Christ.
 - Believers often drift into worldliness in or man-made religious systems when they feel they lack something that Jesus Christ cannot supply.
 - But He is enough! We are made a full in Him!
- 16  **Reverence the Majesty of Christ**
- He is the Prince of principalities (v. 10)
 - King of kings
 - Lord of lords
 - Governor of governors
 - He is the Great Physician who has surgically removed our sins.
 - He is our Vicarious Victor
 - We died with Him; we rose with Him; we are clean in Him.
- 17  **Respond to the light of Christ**
- Colossians 2:13-15 -- *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*
- 18  **What happened at the cross?**
- There was a demonic darkness
 - The demons circled the cross with all the charges against us.
 - Most were just bewildered and frightened by it. But the Bible says that those closest to the cross had a different reaction.
- 19  **Matthew 27:54-56**
- *Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and*

those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. 55 And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: 56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

20 **Those close to the cross**

- Those near the cross had terror struck into their heart and were instantly converted. The very centurion in charge of Jesus' death recognizes Him to be the Son of God.
 - Why? Because when Jesus cries, "It is finished," He has taken away the ordinances against us out of the hands of the demons on the cross (Colossians 2:15) and puts them between Himself and the cross.

21 **Those close to the cross (2)**

- Something in that moment as Jesus yields up His spirit--having paid for all our sins--was perceptible to those near the cross.
- That sudden shift from demonic darkness and palpable evil to peace and light forever changed the lives of those close to the cross.

22 **Those distant from the cross**

- The other group far away experienced no such reaction. They simply beheld what had happened.

23 **Christ finished a work at the cross**

- By the way, this is the 1st of 3 times in the New Testament that God says, "It is finished."
 - 1st "IT IS FINISHED" -- the Redemption of Mankind is Christ Crucified
 - 2nd "IT IS FINISHED" -- the Retribution of the Savior is Babylon Destroyed
 - 3rd "IT IS FINISHED" -- the Reward of the Faithful is Heaven Provided

24 **Revelation 16**

- *"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."*

25 **Revelation 21:1-4**

- *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*

26 **Revelation 21:5-6**

- *5And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."*

27 **APPLICATION**

- We must all get near the cross and see what Jesus did to gain victory over Satan, sin, and death. If we truly see it, it will change our lives forever.