



# ENDGAME

## *Start with the End in Mind*

#NPENDGAME

Week 1

1 of 5

November 6, 2016

**Bottom Line:** Everything we do matters to God.

**Icebreaker:** What are some plans you have for the future? What are you doing today to ensure that those future plans become a reality?

**Key Verse:** *Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 2 Corinthians 5:1-4*

This weekend we start a new series called ENDGAME that is aimed at helping us live our lives with the end in mind. Our goal is to help you see that what we do in the present matters for eternity. All human souls last forever, and how we live now determines where we will spend eternity. But why do we need to be reminded of this?

In one sense, we don't last forever. We have one life on earth in our bodies, or our "tent" as Paul called it. The problem with these earthly tents is that they can become a false end of a false horizon in our lives. We get so interested in the here and now that we forget there is eternity ahead of us. A better way to think about life here is in how it relates to our eternity. We live in tents now but we will some day move into a building, an eternal house (v. 1). And on some level, all of us know this – even those who haven't yet believed in the gospel.

God has placed eternity in the hearts of men (Eccl. 3:11). Instinctively we all know there is something better out there for us; once this truth takes root, it changes the way we live in the here and now. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that makes eternity ours changes everything about the way we live in tents. We may live in a tent, but we are continuously preparing for the building God is making for us in heaven.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight talked about two different judgments: The Great White Throne Judgment where the issue is sin and the result is separation from God; and The Judgment Seat of Christ where the issue is stewardship and the result is gain or loss of reward.

Dwight said I will be rewarded for using my abilities, my eternal investment, seizing my opportunities, my service, my motivation, and my sacrifice.

How do we live well here while filtering the way we live through eternity? What does this look like for you?

On the other hand, how could we get so focused on eternity that we miss out on appointments that God has for us here?

How did Paul's focus on eternity lead him to live here?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

Give an example of a choice that you've had to make that you thought differently about because of eternity?

If we only think about our lives as a one and done endeavor, how does that change the way we make decisions?

How does knowing that those who believe in Christ will have life forever give an added layer of importance to seemingly mundane decisions here? How does it give every day more purpose and value?

Who in your life is not prepared to face eternity? What could you do to help him or her see where they stand in light of eternity?

# NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. What are some decisions that we don't give enough thought? What are some of those choices for you? Share with the group and get feedback together. Other people might be dealing with the same kind of thoughts and decisions.
2. Pray that God would help you see everything in light of the place that He is preparing for you. Ask that the decisions you make today would honor Jesus and help refine and prepare you for what you will experience there. Pray that the Spirit would inform your life and your decisions and lead you to see the significance of every moment.

## EVALUATION/ACTION **Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ**

**Bottom Line:** Everything we do matters to God.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Day 1: 2 Corinthians 5:5

Day 2: 2 Corinthians 5:6-9

Day 3: 2 Corinthians 5:10

Day 4: John 14:1-4

Day 5: John 14:5-6

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*