



ENDGAME

The Life God Rewards

#NPENDGAME

Week 5
5 of 5
December 4, 2016

Bottom Line: Life is a test.

Icebreaker: What is something you want that is not good for you?

Key Verse: *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.* Revelation 20:11-15

C. S. Lewis said, "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way.'" The scene that John shows us in this vision is one of people to whom God has said, "Have it your way." In a society that continually teaches us that the highest ideal is pursuing self-fulfillment, this should be a sobering thought for us. We rarely think about what happens if self-fulfillment becomes our end game.

Self-fulfillment is only an admirable goal if our lives end here, but the clear teaching of the Bible is that this world is not all that there is. Beyond it, we all have a soul that will spend eternity in one of two places – heaven or hell. Once you realize this and take it to heart, you live differently. The view of eternity helps us see our jobs, home life, neighbors, and hobbies differently. We are looking and striving for satisfaction in eternity rather than here on this earth. Those who have little will be given much (Matt. 13:12). So we shouldn't worry about what we do or don't have in this life. The Joneses are a family we will never catch up with, but we can run the race before us with endurance and character.

The closer we walk with God, the more clearly we see eternity and the smaller our momentary afflictions become in the light of His eternal gaze. We want to be with Him. We want our names to be in the Book of Life. Let's live like it.

THINK IT OVER >>>

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

Dwight said we need to think as builders, know our time is limited, remember we are accountable, and have confidence that God will reward us.

We will be rewarded with spiritual capacity: seeking God, serving, self-denial, submitting, suffering, sacrifices, and sharing; and we will be rewarded with ruling and reigning: the crown of . . . life, rejoicing, glory, and righteousness.

Why do you think so many Christians do not live with the end in mind? What good, but not ultimate, goals do we spend our time pursuing?

What picture does Revelation 20 paint of our God? How is this picture different than the one we may think about more often?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What distracts you from seeing eternity as your end game? Why do these distractions seem so urgent?

What hope does the gospel offer to those who have burned themselves for pursuing their joy in self-fulfillment?

Consider the C. S. Lewis quote above. Which person are you right now? Explain.

How do we determine if we are living for ourselves or living for God? What can we use to measure this? How can we help one another identify this in each other?

If you haven't started living for eternity, will you start today?

NEXT STEPS

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

1. Think through your relationships, work, faith, money, communication, or any other area of life that you see fit to discuss. In which of these areas do you need accountability to live with eternity in mind? How can we help each other here?
2. Praise God that this life is not the end. As we close our time thinking about our endgame, ask that you would cement the truths of these past five weeks deeply into your hearts and minds so that we would be truly changed people. Pray that God would remove any desire that chooses the here and now over eternity, and that you would find your joy in Him.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Life is a test.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		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:

- Day 1: Philippians 3:7-11
- Day 2: Philippians 3:12-14
- Day 3: Philippians 3:15-16
- Day 4: Philippians 3:17-19
- Day 5: Philippians 3:20-21

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)