

## Blog 52

### Finishing Well

I have evolved and migrated through many personas over my 60 years since graduating college. I started as an ambitious EE for Shell and as a bachelor scouted around for women. I eventually met my bride-to-be and married her. Thus started a different phase. Marriage and children. And then at 40 I checked out of the IBM enterprise and focused on serving God and raising my children. Though your purpose appears to be changing, it is always to same purpose just a change in the playing field.

I was focused on serving God and finishing well. The God factor never change, only my prep and transition.

I have often heard it said..."He is finishing well" or "He is finishing strong". These are great and popular mantras. But there are no such phrases in the Bible, and I don't observe it in the in the cultural jargon. So how can we interpret this phrase?

Question: Other than Jesus, who finished well in the bible?

Question: Who did not finish well??

Observation: Mat 10:22 - "And ye shall be hated by all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved".

Does this mean he will have finished well? My thoughts are no but he has some evidence he is saved. Being saved does not insure you will finish well. This verse is more proof than the proclamation or enduring vocal witness of your own salvation.

#### **Let me make a few more observations:**

In the opening question, the words "Finishing Well" mean to complete the mission. To say we finished implies we know the goal line. I think the only time we know when we have completed our mission in life is when we die and pass into Heaven.

The word finishing means to complete the mission. So, do we all have the same mission?

Yes, I think -- different forms and fashion but the same mission.

- Mat 28:19-20 NKJV Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
- In other words, help people get to know Jesus and make Him their LORD. We become a servant/slave to Jesus serving others.

And...Glorify God during our life...

- Joh 13:3 NKJV Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God...

We must have a purpose for our life that God has given us.

In our sphere of friends, we must have friends who have similar thinking (purpose) and will hold us accountable for our efforts.

I find most men do not know their purpose in life and look to society or friends or family to define that for them.

Answer this question: I know my purpose for my years on earth and it is...?

We must be men of the Word who are equipped to study and interpret the Word.

To help fulfill our mission, God has given each of us giftedness, a gift and a role to play in His kingdom. Your giftedness may change with the environment you are in, your health, or your preparation. But this is how God has equipped you to be in the battle.

I find that my mission hasn't changed with age but my skills and viability have changed.

I am still called to serve God by serving His people. But now with the approach with which God has equipped me.

Question: My giftedness is...?

Is this statement correct:

Our mission is to prepare to live out eternity in Heaven and praise God. To keep us motivated in our tour here on earth God introduces the rewards, treasures, and crowns concepts. We need to study these motivations and structure our life and efforts accordingly. What we achieve in the world system will all burn up or blow away. It is of value for a very short time. Only you and the rewards will survive.

Factors on determining on how I spend/invest my life:

1. I am a student of the Word and have time on most days to be alone with God and think on His Word.
2. I obey the scriptures and have people in my life to hold me accountable to do these things.
3. I honor my parents.
4. I hold a church discipline mindset with my believing friends, my believing family and would call their hands on drifting from the Word.
5. I give generously to Christian efforts and those in need.
6. I know God and not just know about God.
7. I have a good prayer life.

Application.

1. Write out God's purpose for your life and grade your performance to date.
2. Have your closest associates review your purpose and grade you. Have them suggest what you must change, include or do different to move toward this purpose.
3. Identify someone to hold you accountable.

4. Evaluate how I am doing on storing up the rewards, treasures, and crowns in I my life.