

## Notes from the book “Don't Waste Your Life” by John piper.

God created me – and you – to live with a single, all embracing, all transforming passion – namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.

Enjoying and displaying are both crucial.

The Bible is crystal clear: God created us for his glory.

Life is wasted when we do not live for the glory of God.

Glorify means magnify. When you magnify like a telescope, you make something unimaginably great look like what it really is.

Love is doing what is best for someone.

The really wonderful moments of joy in this world are not the moments of self-satisfaction, but self forgetfulness.

God made man small and the universe big to say something about himself.

If you don't point people to God for everlasting joy, you don't love. You waste your life.

What is eternal life? It is to know God and his son, Jesus Christ. No thing can satisfy the soul. The soul was made to stand in awe of a person.

Now we see that in creating us for his glory, he is creating us for our highest joy. He is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.

God created us to live with a single passion to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life. The wasted life is the life without this passion.

God without Christ is no God. Following a no God – whatever his name or whatever his religion – will be a wasted life.

"The one who rejects me rejects him who sent me" (Luke 10:16). People and religions who reject Christ reject God.

There is no point in romanticizing other religions that reject the deity and saving work of Christ. Those who follow them tragically waste their lives.

The opposite of wasting your life is living life by a single God – exalting, soul – satisfying passion.

Paul said "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

"...Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts" (Isaiah 26:8)

"I will not waste my life! I will finish my course and finish it well." (Acts 20:24)

Apart from the death of Christ, sinners get nothing but judgment. Apart from the cross of Christ, there is only condemnation. Therefore everything that you enjoy in Christ – as a Christian, as a person who trust Christ – is owing to the death of Christ.

Every good thing in life (or bad thing graciously turn for good) is meant to magnify Christ and him crucified.

His glory is where the quest of our affections must end. Everything else is a pointer - a parable of this beauty.

Therefore every enjoyment in this life and the next that is not idolatry is a tribute to the infinite value of the cross of Christ – the burning center of the glory of God. And thus a Cross centered, cross exalting, cross saturated life is a God – glorifying life – the only God-glorifying life. All others are wasted.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a book called the Cost of Discipleship.

"The cross is not the terrible and to an otherwise God-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him to come and die."

Fleeing from death is the shortest path to a wasted life.

"Cheap grace" - He believed in justification by grace through faith. But he did not believe that the faith that justifies could ever leave people unchanged by the radical Christ they came to believe.

"The only man who has the right to say that he is justified by grace alone is the man who has left all to follow Christ."

If we do not embrace the path of joy laden, painful love, we will waste our lives.

For Paul, the opposite of being shamed was not his being honored, but Christ's being honored through him.

That is what it means to magnify Christ – to show the magnitude of his value.

If you experience death as gain, you magnify Christ and death.

In him I have everything and more. To die is gain.

If we learn to die like this, we will be ready to live. And if we don't, we will waste our lives.

Biblical faith in Jesus must mean that we trust him to give us what we need most – namely, himself.

I have been assuming that the power and the motive behind taking risks for the cause of God is not heroism, or the lust for adventure, or the courage of self-reliance, or the need to earn God's goodwill, but rather faith in the all providing, all ruling, all satisfying son of God, Jesus Christ.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:25, 31-33).

What Jesus meant was that our father in heaven would never let us be tested beyond what we are able (1 Corinthians 10:13)

What does it mean to be more than a conqueror? One biblical answer is that a conqueror defeats his enemy, but the one who is more than a conqueror subjugates his enemy. A conqueror nullifies the purpose of his enemy; one who is more than a conqueror makes the enemy serve his own purposes. A conqueror strikes down his foe; one who is more than a conqueror makes his foe his slave.

Is better to lose our life than to waste it.

At the end of every other road – secure and risk-free – will put our face in our hands and say, "I've wasted it!"

Ephesians 4:32 - the bottom of this motive is not God's forgiveness, but what God's forgiveness gives. It gives us God.

God's forgiveness is important for one reason: it gives us God!

Are impulse for being forgiving people is the joy we have in a forgiving God.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne, a Scottish Pastor, said "to give largely and liberally, not grudging at all, requires a new heart; an old heart would rather part with its lifeblood than its money."

What is the nature and aim of glad hearted, Christian giving? It is the effort – with as much creativity and sacrifice as necessary – to give others everlasting and ever increasing joy – joy in God.

By gladly pursuing the gladness of others and God – even at the cost of our lives – we love them and honor God. This is the opposite of a wasted life.

Gladness in God is the goal of all saving work, and the experiential essence of what it means to be saved.

Glad in God includes the plan and grace of God, the redeeming work of Christ, new birth, repentance, faith, the progressive change into Christ likeness called sanctification, life of love, total renewal of body, mind, heart, relationships and society.

To make others glad in God we must make sacrificial life choices rooted in the assurance that magnifying Christ through generosity and mercy is more satisfying than selfishness. If we walk away from risk to keep ourselves safe and solvent, we will waste our lives.

I have in mind mainly how we use our money and how we feel about our possessions.

"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God "Luke 18:25

Jesus loves faith filled risk for the glory of God.

Wartime lifestyle or mindset - There is a war going on in the world between Christ and Satan, truth and falsehood, belief and unbelief.

There are weapons to be funded and used, but these weapons are not swords or guns or bombs but the Gospel in prayer and self sacrificing love.

The stakes of this conflict are higher than any other war in history; they are eternal and infinite.

I drift into a piece time mindset as certainly as rain falls down in flames go up.

It is more helpful to think of a wartime lifestyle then a merely simple lifestyle.

Simplicity may be inwardly directed and may benefit no one else. A wartime lifestyle implies that there is a great and worthy cause for which to spend and be spent ( 2 Corinthians 12:15)

Ralph winter illustrates: "the underdeveloped societies suffer from one set of diseases: tuberculosis, malnutrition, pneumonia, parasites, typhoid, Cholera, typhus, etc. Affluent America as virtually invented a whole new set of diseases: obesity, arterial sclerosis, heart disease, strokes, lung cancer, venereal disease, cirrhosis of the liver, drug addiction, alcoholism, divorce, battered children, suicide, murder. "

Avoiding fearful trouble and forbidden behaviors impresses almost no one. The avoidance ethic by itself is not Christ commending or God glorifying.

People who are content with the avoidance ethic generally ask the wrong question about behavior. They ask, what's wrong with it?

The better questions to ask about possible behaviors is: how will this help me treasure Christ more? How will it help me show that I do treasure Christ? How will it help me know Christ or display Christ?

Oh, how many lives are wasted by people who believe that the Christian life means simply avoiding badness and providing for the family.

The war is being fought first along the line between good and evil in every human heart.

You don't waste your life by where you work but how and why.

John 17:15–16, "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. "

Martin Luther said "all Christians are truly of the spiritual estate."

The vast majority of Christians are meant to live in the world and work among unbelievers.

"Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need " (Ephesians 4:28).

We can make much of God in our secular job through the fellowship that we enjoy with him throughout the day in all our work.

One Corinthians 7:24. "In whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God."

They go to work "with God."

Breathing out continual thanks to God for all things.

When you add to this the awareness that you depend on God for every future minute of life and for all the help you need, your thankfulness flows over into faith for each upcoming moment and for the remainder of the day and week and month and year and decade.

He encourages you, "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand "Isaiah 41:10

Being in the image of God means at least that we should image forth God. We should reflect what he is really like. Make him look great as creator.

Therefore, at the heart of the meaning of work is creativity. If you are God, your work is to create out of nothing. If you are human, your work is to take with God what has been made and shape it and use it to make him look great.

How we differ from beavers. The difference is that humans are morally self-conscious and make choices about their work on the basis of motives that may or may not honor God.

Those who abandoned creative productivity lose the joy of God dependent, world shaping, God reflecting purposeful work. "Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep" Ecclesiastes 5:12

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" Colossians 3:23  
Ephesians 6:7

We make much of Christ in our secular work by earning enough money to keep us from depending on others, while focusing on the helpfulness of our work rather than financial rewards.

God intended from the beginning that satisfying work would provide for our needs.

When man and woman chose to be self-reliant and rejected God's fatherly guidance and provision, God subjected them to the very thing they chose: self-reliance.

The curse is that, in our work, we struggle with weariness and frustration and calamities and anxiety.

God does not want his children to be burdened with the frustration and futility and depressing weariness of work. That much of the curse he aims to lift from us even in this age.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "if anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat."

Able-bodied people who choose to live in idleness and eat the fruit of another's labor are in rebellion against God's design. If we can, we should earn our own living.

Aimless, unproductive Christians contradict the creative, purposeful, powerful, merciful God we love.

So don't labor for the food that perishes. Labor to love people and honor God. Think of new ways that your work can bless people. Stop thinking mainly of profitability, and think mainly of how helpful your product or service can become.

If we simply work to earn a living – if we labor for the bread that parishes – we will waste our lives. But if we labor with the sweet assurance that God will supply all our needs – that Christ died to purchase every undeserved blessing – and all our labor will be a labor of love and boasting only in the cross.

He does not call us out of the world. He does not remove the need to work. He does not destroy society and culture. Through his scattered Saints he spreads a passion for his supremacy in all things for the joy of all peoples. If you work like the world, you will waste your life, no matter how rich you get. But if your work creates a web of redemptive relationships and becomes an adornment for the gospel of the glory of Christ, your satisfaction will last forever and God will be exalted in your joy.

Ministries of Mercy close at hand validate the authenticity of our distant concerns.

Missions and mercy are inextricable because the very gospel we take to the nations models and mandates mercy to the poor at home.

BB Warfield, a teacher at Princeton seminary who died in 1921. "Now dear Christians, some of you pray night and day to be branches of the Truevine; you pray to be made all over in the image of Christ. If so, you must be like him in giving... "Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor"... Objection 1. "My money is my own." Answer: Christ might have said, "My blood is my own, my life is my own"...then where should we have been? Objection 2. "The poor are undeserving." Answer: Christ might have said, "They are wicked rebels...shall I lay down my life for these? I will give to the good angels." But no, he left the ninety-nine, and came after the lost. He gave his blood for the undeserving. Objection 3. "The Poor may abuse it." Answer: Christ might have said the same; yea, with far greater truth. Christ knew that thousands would trample his blood under their feet; that most would despise it; that many would make it an excuse for sinning more; yet he gave his own blood. Oh, my dear Christians! If you would be like Christ, give much, give often, give freely, to the vile and poor, the thankless and the undeserving. Christ is glorious and happy and so will you be. It is not your money I want, but your happiness. Remember his own word, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Jay Campbell White, the first secretary of the Layman's missionary movement, showed his generation that a passion for missions was not only the way to save the world, but also to save the church.

He said, "if a man is growing large and wealthy, nothing but constant giving can keep him from growing small in soul."