



## What is Real?

### Week 6 | What Do I Do With All This Truth?

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

- “Mission drift” happens when an organization moves away from its original purpose, and it happens even more easily for an individual.
- What if my life is on the wrong mission? Can I course-correct? If so, how?
  - Paul advised them to reflect on their lives, to look carefully how they made decisions and spent their time.
  - He advised believers to live wisely (i.e., worshiping God), not unwisely (i.e., living for our ourselves).
- He wrote that we should keep watch on how we spend our time.
  - We can’t squirrel time away or make it stretch; we’re continually spending it.
  - **Our time is limited, and we don’t know the expiration date.**
- Paul reminded believers to keep their eye on God and His leadership, so that His will might be realized in their lives.
  - God wants every individual to know Him, love Him, and rely on Him always;
  - Once we’re in that relationship ourselves, part of His will is that we invite others into it.
- Because our time is limited, we’re to live with eyes open to gospel opportunities and ears attuned to God’s leadership.
- Jesus was the absolute best at this; He never suffered from mission drift.
- When you fail (miss opportunities, are afraid to take advantage of them, refuse to act when the Spirit prompts us, or in other ways live foolishly)—and it’s inevitable that you will—remember that you’re not accepted by God based on your performance, but on Christ’s performance on your behalf.
- We can apply the same grace to ourselves that we extend to others when we share the gospel with them.
- God is wise; He has a plan; and we can trust Him. That’s what we’re made for.

## | SCRIPTURE

<sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

**Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV)**

The reverent fear *and* worship of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom...

**Psalms 111:10a (AMPC)**

<sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**2 Peter 3:8-9 (ESV)**

## | PRACTICAL

- What do these gospel opportunities look like? Some examples:
  - In a phone conversation with your mom, asking her if you can pray for her;
  - Going to the same person at the grocery check-out each time and chatting with her, so you can build a relationship with her;
  - Checking in with a neighbor to see how he's doing, or meeting a neighbor for the first time;
  - Inviting someone to come to church with you;
  - Asking questions—really listening to the answers—and humbly sharing what you know about Jesus.
- What if this is something I never give a thought to? Let the truth of the resurrection of Jesus seep in and thrill your soul by reading and meditating on:
  - Ephesians 2:1-10 - what does Paul mean when he says you were dead?
  - 2 Corinthians 5:21 - what does it mean that Christ became sin for you?
  - 1 Timothy 1:15 - let the Holy Spirit fill you with joy over what Christ did for you.

## | REFLECT

- Expiration dates create a sense of urgency; people who are aware of just how short their time is have the ability to cut through the fluff and spend the rest of their time with new purpose.
- What can matter more than where people will spend their eternity?
- Are you on God's mission? Or are you wasting your life by living for yourself?
- If I'm not on mission, there's still time to change course; I can say "Yes" to Jesus...
  - as my Rescuer, inviting Him to break me out of the prison of sin and death;
  - as my Leader, following Him into opportunities to grow in my faith and share the gospel with others.

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