

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you as our guest today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

October 12, 2008

LIVING A NO REGRETS LIFE 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Ending our life with **no regrets** requires steering a straight path to the finish line.

The Apostle Paul's example of what a straight path looks like ...

Acts 20:24 "my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." NLT

2 Timothy 4:7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Components Needed to Finish Life with No Regrets

1. GIVING AUTHENTIC LOVE

- The natural fruit of authentic love is trust.

Mark 12:31 "Love your neighbor as yourself."

1 John 4:20 "But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars. We cannot see God. So how can we love God, if we don't love the people we can see?" CEV

- The most dynamic thing that enables you to love others is to emotionally accept the incredible love Jesus has for you.

You can't give what you haven't received.

- Showing love to those in your sphere of influence is a major component of living a "no regrets" life.

2. LIVE TRUTH

- The only way to live a no regrets life is to be truthful in all our dealings.

- **Consider this:** Is a person truthful who isn't willing to live in the reality of their budget? ... their marriage commitment? ... or what their intuition is telling them when making daily decisions?

- Seeking reality and aligning yourself with what God's Word says is truth, and doing what you know to do in life will enable you to live a no regrets life.

Proverbs 11:3 “The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.”

3. EMBRACE THE NEGATIVE

- Life will always require making tough, costly calls in dealing with your children, ... finances ... job ... friends ... your time ... your body, etc.

- The defining deed of Benaiah, one of King David’s mighty men ...

2 Samuel 23:20 “on a snowy day, he climbed down into a pit and killed a lion.”

- Benaiah saw the potential and took a huge risk that brought him great reward.

- When conflicts are faced head on and handled creatively with God’s guidance, they can take you much farther than you have ever been.

- Running from conflicts will only leave painful feelings, thoughts and many regrets!

Matthew 5:23-24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”

- God doesn’t waste pain, so why should we?

Psalms 119:71 “My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees.” NLT

Romans 8:17 “... if we are to share his [Christ’s] glory, we must also share his suffering.” NLT

4. LOOK BEYOND YOURSELF

- It’s a paradox, but we receive more of God as we shift our focus off ourselves and pour ourselves into others.

- People who end life with no regrets are the ones who see the needs of the world around them as much bigger than they are.

- Only as you look beyond yourself and apply what you’ve learned in our “*One Month to Live*” challenge, will you face death boldly with **No Regrets**.

Do you see a straight path headed to the finish line? If not, you still have time to seek God’s guidance to straighten out what has been a zigzagged, selfish life. Today, face that reality and humble yourself by asking God for His help.

“LIVING WITH NO REGRETS”

For personal or small group study

Week of October 12, 2008

You’re not really ready to live until you’re ready to die. This life on earth is preparing you for eternity. So how are you living it? Are you making the most of every opportunity? The only source of true fulfillment and passion in our lives is Jesus Christ. He gives us the power and the passion to live each day on this earth in a way that will outlive us for all of eternity. **[Watch session six on DVD]**

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What affected you the most in the short film “Empty” in this week’s DVD? What three blockers to living life passionately did Kerry and Chris mention? Of the three, which one do you struggle with the most? If you knew you only had one month to live, what steps would you take to eliminate this barrier to passion in your life?
2. What impacted you the most as you read Day 29, “Game Over”, and Day 30, “Game On?” On page 216 in the book, it says under “**Heaven Can’t Wait**”, “*One moment after you die, you’ll experience either the greatest celebration ever or the greatest separation ever. Heaven and hell are real places, and we have the choice of where we will spend eternity.*” How does this statement make you feel? How would you describe each of them to a friend or someone you love?
3. Read Psalm 73:26 and Matthew 4:2-4. Have you ever felt like you were just running out of life? What are the things that are draining you? What things are you pursuing that never quite seem to satisfy? During times when you feel empty or like all of your passion for life has faded, where do you find yourself turning for sustenance and fulfillment?
4. **KEY QUESTION: Read Romans 6:23 and 8:1-2.** What is the consequence of our sin? How are we spiritually empty? What is the only thing that can rescue us from that empty state? What is the difference between a wage and a gift? Why is it important to know the difference? What does it mean to be “in Christ Jesus?” *If you knew you only had one month to live, would you know with confidence that your life was “in Christ Jesus” and that you had received the “free gift” of eternal life? Describe how you would know. Remember ... What you do with Jesus Christ determines where you spend eternity.*
5. **The sermon and sermon notes:** How can you practically apply to your life the components needed to finish life with no regrets? Which components are helping you take a straight path to the finish line? How?
6. How have the last 30 days challenged you? What are you going to do to act upon the challenge to continually practice the changes you are beginning, or have begun, during this time?