

# "FINISHING WELL"

## Selected Scriptures

Joash was a Jewish king who started well but ended terribly. His purpose in life was to glorify the Lord and enjoy Him forever. As long as Jehoiada was alive the young king had a passion to honor the Lord, His God.

**[READ 2 Chronicles 24:13-22]**

I wish I could tell you that King Joash repented of his vile, ungodly behavior and turned back to God. However, when Jehoiada died...

- **King Joash lost his focus.**
- **He had no core convictions.**
- **He listened to the ungodly.**
- **He ignored repeated wake-up calls from the Lord.**
- **He led God's covenant people into blatant idolatry.**
- **Ultimately his spiritual life collapsed.**
- **He didn't finish well.**
- **He squandered his life purpose.**

Here's how his life ended...

**2 Chronicles 24:23–25**... Now it happened at the turn of the year that the army of the Arameans came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, destroyed all the officials of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. **24** Indeed the army of the Arameans came with a small number of men; yet the LORD delivered a very great army into their hands, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash. **25** When they had departed from him (for they left him very sick), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and murdered him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

The Creator shaped you in your mother's womb. He wove into your life the same purpose that defined King Joash—**TO GLORIFY GOD AND TO ENJOY HIM FOREVER**. I want you to pause and think about how your life story will end.

Some of you haven't started well because you have ignored your life purpose. Glorifying God is not even on your radar. I pray that today you will listen carefully to the Word of God, and you will be super sensitive to the Holy Spirit who wants you to live for something bigger than yourself. I don't want you to come to the end of

January 19, 2025  
CFBC... "Glorify"

your life and look back with regrets knowing that you rejected repeated invitations to enter into a personal relationship with God by receiving Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Regardless of your age or what you've done with your life so far, you can start well today!

There are others here today who have started well. You have received Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Here's what you've got to understand. How you finish is just as important as how you start. I want you to sharpen your sense of what's really important. I don't want you to come to the end of your life filled with regrets that you wasted multiple opportunities to glorify God and enjoy Him in this life. Here's the truth I want you to seize today...

## **START WELL AND FINISH WELL!**

How do we glorify God and enjoy Him consistently throughout our lives? In the previous sermons in this series, we've noted some specific ways to do this...

- **Remember the atoning death of Jesus**
- **Abide in Jesus so He can make us spiritually fruitful**
- **Live to please the Lord**

- **Endure the tough times**
- **Commit to sexual purity**

Today I'm going to lay out three more ways that you can glorify the Lord consistently throughout your life...

## **1. PUT OTHERS BEFORE YOURSELF**

This is a cardinal principle of living for something bigger than yourself. Paul certainly highlighted this in several of his epistles...

**1 Corinthians 10:31**... Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

The context for this verse sheds a lot of light on this principle. Paul is speaking to believers in the Greek city of Corinth which was a part of the Roman Empire. Much of the meat sold in Corinthian markets had been ritually sacrificed to idols.

In **1 Corinthians 10:23–30**, Paul builds an argument for his conclusion in verse 31...

- **Christians may eat the meat sacrificed to idols**
- **Christians must consider others (10:24, 8:13)**

January 19, 2025  
CFBC... "Glorify"

Having the "right" to do something does not mean we are free to do it in every circumstance, regardless of its effects on others.

Paul championed this idea of putting others before yourself with the Philippian church also...

**Philippians 2:3–4...** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Do you want to glorify the Lord and enjoy Him in this life? Sharpen your perspective. This is important. *Put others before yourself.*

## **2. MAKE GENEROSITY A PRIORITY.**

Here's the truth that we are driving home today...

**START WELL AND FINISH WELL!**

To glorify God and enjoy Him consistently throughout our lives means that we must make some spiritual adjustments from time to time. That includes our time, our talents, and our treasure. Listen to the Word...

**2 Corinthians 9:6–15**... Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; **9** as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." **10** Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; **11** you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. **12** For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. **13** Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, **14** while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. **15** Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

God is glorified and honored when we practice biblical generosity.

**Proverbs 3:9–10**... Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; **10** So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

**Proverbs 11:25**... The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.

What a thrill it is to hold lightly to what the Lord has so graciously provided for us. Then, when we unleash our generosity to grow the kingdom and to meet the needs of others, God is glorified, and His joy fills our heart to overflowing.

I don't want to come to the end of my life and look back with regrets. I've started well and I want to finish well. Don't you?

### **3. RELY ON GOD'S PROMISES.**

Four different times the Bible declares a truth that is vital to every believer. What is this truth? "*The righteous will live by faith.*" (**Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38**) If God says the same thing four times it must be important!

January 19, 2025  
CFBC... "Glorify"

This morning, I want to point you to Abraham's faith. He started well and he finished well. He believed some of God's biggest promises.

**Romans 4:18–21**... In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." **19** Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; **20** yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, **21** and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Abraham believed that God would give him a child and descendants as numerous as the sand on the seashore and that He would give those descendants the Promise Land. God fulfilled this promise when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90.

Here we are 4000 years later giving God glory for the great things He did through a man who "*did not waver in unbelief.*" This Bible is full of promises. You can trust the Lord to fulfill those promises in your life. In so doing, you can glorify Him and enjoy Him in this life right now.



## CONCLUSION

### START WELL AND FINISH WELL!

The key is to set your heart on glorifying God and enjoying Him now and forevermore. Today we've covered three more ways we can fulfill this important purpose for our lives...

#### **1. PUT OTHERS BEFORE YOURSELF**

#### **2. MAKE GENEROSITY A PRIORITY**

#### **3. RELY ON GOD'S PROMISES**

Some of you need to start well by turning from a life of sin and by placing your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Start well today!

Others of you need to admit that you started well but you've been faltering recently. Sharpen your sense of what's really important. I don't want you to come to the end of your life filled with regrets that you wasted multiple opportunities to glorify God and enjoy Him in this life. Ask Him to revitalize your spiritual life so that you can finish well with no regrets.

January 19, 2025  
CFBC... "Glorify"

**2 Timothy 4:7**... I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;