

**WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS**  
**WHEN LIFE GIVE YOU LEMONS SERIES**

**BIG IDEA:** KNOWING WHAT IS **IMPORTANT** AND WHAT ISN'T **IMPORTANT** IS REALLY **IMPORTANT** TO LIVING A GOD-PURPOSED LIFE... THE ABUNDANT LIFE THAT JESUS PROMISED YOU.

Our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained... So they sent a message asking me to meet them... I replied by sending this message to them: 'I am doing a great work! I cannot stop to come and meet with you.' **Nehemiah 6:1-4 (NLT)**

**1. WHO OR WHAT IS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY OVER MY LIFE?**

- Where do I get my values?
- Where do I go to look for what is most important in life?
- What is the COMPASS I use to point my life to TRUE NORTH.

**3 OPTIONS – THREE “COMPASSES” PEOPLE USE**

• **SELF**

The human mind (heart) is the most deceitful of all things! It is incurable. No one can understand how deceitful it really is! **Jeremiah 17:9 (GW)**

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

**Proverbs 16:25 (NIV)**

• **THE WORLD**

Don't love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them. Everything that is in the world [that the world values] — **physical gratification, greed**, and **prideful, self-centered lifestyles** — does not come from God. **1 John 2:15-16 (CEB Para)**

From **the WORLD'S perspective**, the **MOST IMPORTANT** things in life are...

- **ALL THINGS PHYSICAL**
- **ALL THINGS MATERIAL**
- **ALL THINGS SELF**

God does not see as humans see. Humans look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart. **1 Samuel 16:7 (GW)**

**SO WHERE DO YOU LOOK THEN?**  
**WELL, YOU LOOK TO THE THIRD OPTION: GOD AND HIS WORD.**

• **GOD'S WORD**

Jesus said... If you live by what I say, you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. **John 8:31-32(GW)**

Why am I pacing the floor, wringing my hands...? Give me your lantern and compass, give me a map, So I can find my way to the sacred mountain, to the place of your presence... **Psalm 43:2-3 (MSG)**

**How do I know what is MOST IMPORTANT in life? Let God be the COMPASS of your life!**

**2. WHAT WILL LAST LONGER AND HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT?**

The world and its desires are passing away, but the one who does the will of God lives forever. **1 John 2:17 (MEV)**

**3. DO YOU LIVE A PRINCIPLED LIFE?**

**The 6-8-10 Principles**

• **IS IT GOOD FOR ME?**

I Cor. 6:12a – "Everything is permissible for me"-- but not everything is beneficial." On the basis of this verse, I can ask myself: "**Is this action helpful?**"

• **IS IT ADDICTIVE/HARMFUL?**

I Cor. 6:12b – "Everything is permissible for me-- but I will not be mastered by anything."

On the basis of this verse, I can ask myself: "**Is this action addictive in harmful way?**"

- **COULD IT ENCOURAGE SOMEONE TO WRONG/STUMBLE?**

I Cor. 8:12 – "When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ."

On the basis of this verse, I can ask myself: "**Is this action potentially harmful to others?**"

- **DOES IT GLORIFY GOD?**

I Cor. 10:31 – "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

On the basis of this verse, I can ask myself: "**Will this action glorify God?**"

### **Closing**

I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done for me. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Him!

### **Philippians 3:7-8 (NLT)**

You can change your life for the better, one day at a time, by becoming intentional about discerning and doing what is MOST IMPORTANT every day.

**How?** By searching God's Word, by having a long view of life, and by living a principled life.