

DOWNLOAD PDF ARE WE SERVING THE CHURCH BUT LOSING OUR CHILDREN? V. RAYMOND EDMAN

Chapter 1 : Mission Mottos (& Missionary Quotes) : Harvest Ministry

Dr. V. Raymond Edman, husband, father, friend, soldier, missionary, pastor, professor, mentor, devotional writer, college president and chancellor, was first and foremost a disciple of Jesus Christ. In his book They Found the Secret, Edman noticed a common pattern that is lived out by mature disciples of Jesus.

Lost people matter to God, and so they must matter to us. Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love. Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Never pity missionaries; envy them. They are where the real action is where life and death, sin and grace, Heaven and Hell converge. Oh, that I had a thousand lives and a thousand bodies! All of them should be devoted to no other employment but to preach Christ to these degraded, despised, yet beloved mortals. Only as the church fulfills her missionary obligation does she justify her existence. Our God of Grace often gives us a second chance, but there is no second chance to harvest a ripe crop. Some wish to live within the sound of church and chapel bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell! Someone asked, Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved? It is more a question with me whether we who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not can be saved. Tell the students to give up their small ambitions and come eastward to preach the gospel of Christ. The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet. This generation can only reach this generation. Sympathy is no substitute for action. The Bible is not the basis of missions; missions is the basis of the Bible. Center for World Mission The Christian is not obedient unless he is doing all in his power to send the Gospel to the heathen world. The Church must send or the church will end. The church that does not evangelize will fossilize. The mission of the church is missions. Related to the previous quote. We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first. The church which ceases to be evangelistic will soon cease to be evangelical. The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time. The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed. The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. The light that shines farthest shines brightest nearest home. The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity. The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become. The supreme task of the Church is the evangelization of the world. The will of God nothing less, nothing more, nothing else. Marsh also attributed to Bobby Richardson To know God and to make Him known. To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map. Untold millions are still untold. Walk away from your own preoccupations. Yohannan, Gospel for Asia We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure in which we have received it. Bresee, founder of the Church of the Nazarene We can reach our world, if we will. The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer. We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God. What can we do to win these men to Christ? Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice, before everyone has heard it once? Will you go to His feet and place yourself entirely at His disposal? Will you shed your tears for the souls of the nations? You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving. You must go or send a substitute. You have one business on earth to save souls. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible. Lawrence All my desire was the conversion of the heathen. I cared not where or how I lived, or what hardships I went through, so that I could but gain souls to Christ. I declare, now I am dying, I would not have spent my life otherwise for the whole world. Meanwhile, millions who have never heard it once fall into the flames of eternal hell without ever hearing the salvation story. Yohannan, Gospel for Asia Give me the love that leads the way, The faith that nothing can dismay, The hope no disappointments tire, The passion that will burn like fire; Let me not sink to be a clod: Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God! He made missions possible through His Son. He made missions actual in sending the Holy Spirit. Peters God is not calling us to win the world and, in the process, lose our families. He has an

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inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose. Could any choice be as wonderful as His will? Could any place be safer than the center of His will? Did not he assure me by His very presence that His thoughts toward us are good, and not evil? Death to my own plans and desires was almost deliriously delightful. Everything was laid at His nail-scarred feet, life or death, health or illness, appreciation by others or misunderstanding, success or failure as measured by human standards. Only He himself mattered. Raymond Edman Life is pitiful, death so familiar, suffering and pain so common, yet I would not be anywhere else. Do not wish me out of this or in any way seek to get me out, for I will not be got out while this trial is on. These are my people, God has given them to me, and I will live or die with for Him and His glory. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Then look Christ in the face "whose mercy you have professed to obey" and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world. They forget that they too are expending their lives and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted. Self that refuses to die. Self that refuses to sacrifice. Self that refuses to give. Self that refuses to go. It is rooted in the character of the God who has come to us in Christ Jesus. Thus, it can never be the province of a few enthusiasts, a sideline or a specialty of those who happen to have a bent that way. It is the distinctive mark of being a Christian.

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Chapter 2 : Exploring the Queerness of Christianity with Episcopal Priest Elizabeth Edman

His family worshiped at the Swedish Missionary Church, and he grew up in a family devoted to prayer and Scripture reading. In his senior year of high school, in June, he accepted Christ as his Savior at an evangelistic service led by Dr. I.E. Honeywell.

Navy Rear Admiral R. He contracted the disease as a child in Southeast Asia, as did his missionary parents and two of his siblings. Though malaria will still kill an estimated , people this year, today most of the initial countries have succeeded. Tim was raised in the central highlands of what is now Vietnam by missionary parents serving with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and was inspired to attend Wheaton College by events in Ecuador. Wheaton College Alumni Association How do we hear about alumni who have lived lives of extraordinary service? Yet President Edman encouraged him to reapply, so he did, and transferred in as a sophomore. In the same class as pastor and author Dr. Tim majored in history and was accepted to three graduate schools, but was drafted before he could enroll in further study. Tim served in the U. Navy for 30 years, flying combat missions in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. He rose through the ranks, becoming Rear Admiral. His last assignment was Commander of the Mid-Atlantic Region in Tim retired from the military in , but the opportunities for service continued. He was asked by World Relief to lead its programs and served as executive director. Wheaton also prepared Tim to respond to the challenges of life with faith. Then he walked past Blanchard Hall and saw the sign: I know that sounds a bit phony and rehearsed, but it was true. There it was preserved, printed, and sent back to Vietnam, where national leaders used it to translate the entire Bible. Tim sees this as an example of how God has used the work of missionaries like his father to grow the church. Video produced by Kevin Schmalandt.

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Chapter 3 : Discover The Book Ministries- Week Living Contentedly for Christ

Raymond Edman -- How can we succeed with family worship? / Tenis C. Van Kooten -- Can we claim our family's salvation? / Theodore H. Epp -- Am I my child's biggest problem?

Raymond Edman *They Found the Secret* began as a series of twenty articles written for *Christian Life* magazine that were gathered together in a book. This had been a much neglected theme in the writings of evangelical Christians for the last fifty years or so. It is not enough just to know about Christ, or to know about what He did for us, nor even to experience His work in us. The details of their experiences [in this book] are usually quite different yet as we listen to their stories and watch their lives, either in our reading or in our contact with them, we begin to see a pattern that reveals their secret. Out of discouragement and defeat they have come into victory. Out of weakness and weariness they have been made strong. Out of ineffectiveness and apparent uselessness they have become efficient and enthusiastic. The pattern seems to be self-centeredness, self-effort, increasing inner dissatisfaction and outer discouragement, a temptation to give it all up because there is no better way, and then finding the Spirit of God to be their strength, their guide, their confidence and companion--in a word, their life. The crisis of the deeper life is the key that unlocks the secret of their transformation. It is the beginning of the exchanged life. What is the exchanged life? Really, it is not some thing, it is some One. It is new life for old. It is rejoicing for weariness and radiance for dreariness. It is strength for weakness and steadiness for uncertainty. It is triumph even through tears and tenderness of heart instead of touchiness. It is lowliness of spirit instead of self-exaltation and loveliness of life because of the presence of the altogether Lovely One. Abundance of that life we find by surrendering self and drawing on the unfailing resources of the Almighty. There is life and there is life more abundant. This is the exchanged life. From a multitude of witnesses throughout the centuries I have chosen just a few by way of illustration. The pattern of their experiences is much the same. They had believed on the Savior, yet they were burdened and bewildered, unfaithful, and unfruitful, always yearning for a better way and never achieving by their efforts a better life. Then they came to a crisis of utter heart surrender to the Savior, a meeting with Him in the innermost depths of their spirit; and they found the Holy Spirit to be an unfailing fountain of life and refreshment. Thereafter life was never again the same, because in one way or another they had learned what the apostle Paul had testified: I have deliberately chosen witnesses of diverse personalities and backgrounds. God is no respecter of persons! The details of their experience of the crisis of the deeper life are delightfully different; yet their testimony to the reality of the joy and power of the Spirit-filled life is unanimous. Nowhere in Scripture are we taught to seek experience. Rather, the Word says, "Seek ye the Lord. He is the secret of the exchanged life!"

Hudson Taylor *The Exchanged Life* The deep dealing of God with His children varies in detail but the general pattern seems much alike for individual cases. Into each life there arises an awareness of failure, a falling short of all that one should be in the Lord; then there is a definite meeting with the risen Savior in utter surrender of heart, which is indeed death to the self. There follows an appropriation by faith of His resurrection life through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. As a result there is realized an overflow of life likened by the Lord Jesus to "rivers of water. In his youth he had been called to the mission field of China. For fifteen years he had served earnestly and effectively in that land before he came into experiential possession of "the exchanged life. I cannot tell you how I am buffeted sometimes by temptation. I never knew how bad a heart I had. And I value above all things that precious Savior in Whom alone I can be accepted. But oh, how short I fall here again! May God help me to love Him more and serve Him better. Do pray for me. Pray that the Lord will keep me from sin, will sanctify me wholly, will use me more largely in His service. Said the Lord Jesus: We are not even to come just to the Word of God: The way to heart satisfaction and rest of spirit for Hudson Taylor was learned from a fellow missionary, John McCarthy. In a letter to Mr. I feel as though the first dawning of a glorious day had risen upon me. I hail it with trembling, yet with trust. I seem to have got to the edge only, but of a sea which is boundless; to have sipped only, but of that which fully

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satisfies. Christ literally all seems to me now the power, the only power for service; the only ground for unchanging joy. May He lead us into the realization of His unfathomable fullness. Taylor "into the realization of His unfathomable fullness. I looked to Jesus; and when I saw, oh how the joy flowed! Taylor went out, a new man in a new world, to tell what the Lord had done for his soul. The last month or more has been perhaps, the happiest of my life; and I long to tell you a little of what the Lord has done for my soul. I do not know how far I may be able to make myself intelligible about it, for there is nothing new or strange or wonderful--and yet, all is new! McCarthy, who had been much exercised by the same sense of failure, but saw the light before I did, wrote I quote from memory: Not by striving after faith, but by resting on the Faithful One. For has He not promised to abide with me--never to leave me, never to fail me? As I thought of the Vine and the branches, what light the blessed Spirit poured into my soul! How great seemed my mistake in having wished to get the sap, the fullness out of Him. I saw not only that Jesus would never leave me, but that I was a member of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. The vine now I see, is not the root merely, but all--root, stem, branches, twigs, leaves, flowers, fruit: He is soil and sunshine, air and showers, and ten thousand times more than we have ever dreamed, wished for, or needed. Oh, the joy of seeing this truth! I do pray that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened, that you may know and enjoy the riches freely given us in Christ.. I am no longer anxious about anything, as I realize this; for He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine. It makes no matter where He places me, or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest positions He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient. The serenity of the Lord Jesus concerning any matter and at its most critical moment, this was his ideal and practical possession. He knew nothing of rush or hurry, of quivering nerves or vexation of spirit. He knew there was a peace passing all understanding, and that he could not do without it. Mine is a peculiarly nervous disposition, and with a busy life I found myself in a tremor all day long. I did not enjoy the Lord as I knew I ought. Nervous agitation possessed me as long as there was anything to be done. The daily mail robbed me of His delightful society. Your letters are presently important, mine of comparatively little moment. Yet I am worried and distressed, while you are always calm. Do tell me what makes the difference. Here is a man almost sixty years of age, bearing tremendous burdens, yet absolutely calm and unruffled. Oh, the pile of letters! Any one of which might contain news of death, or shortness of funds, or riots or serious trouble. Yet all were opened, read and answered with the same tranquility--Christ his reason for peace, his power for calm. Dwelling in Christ he partook of His very being and resources, in the midst of and concerning the very matters in question. See the Man in the Glory! Let the face of Jesus shine upon you--the face of the Lord Jesus Christ. Is He worried, troubled, distressed? There is no wrinkle on His brow, no least shade of anxiety. Yet the affairs are His as much as yours. Not by incessant effort for sunshine and air; not by vain struggles for those vivifying influences which give beauty to the blossom, and verdure to the leaf: By efforts and struggles to obtain that which is freely given; by meditations on watchfulness, on prayer, on action, on temptation, and on dangers? Christians in whom these dispositions are once firmly fixed go on calmly as the infant borne in the arms of its mother. Christ reminds them of every duty in its time and place, reproves them for every error, counsels them in every difficulty, excites them to every needful activity. In spiritual as in temporal matters they take no thought for the morrow; for they know that Christ will be as accessible tomorrow as today, and that time imposes no barrier on His love. Their hope and trust rest solely on what He is willing and able to do for them; on nothing that they suppose themselves able and willing to do for Him. Their talisman for every temptation and sorrow is their oft-repeated child-like surrender of their whole being to Him. It can be ordered from most Christian bookstores, and I highly recommend it for all who truly desire to have Jesus Christ in them, who desire the "indwelling of Christ" in their personal lives.

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Chapter 4 : Hope in the Healer – Wheaton magazine

V. Raymond Edman (Author) – Visit a subscription that delivers hand-picked children's books every 1, 2, or 3 months. With 3 other men, we formed a Bible.

Though it has been around for many generations, this particular word unfamiliar to most of us. Few of us use it in ordinary conversations and some of us have probably never heard the word at all. It is a word with an ugly, ominous sound. An apostate knows the truth and intentionally embraces falsehood. In biblical terms, an apostate is anyone who claims to be a Christian and yet denies the fundamental truths of the Christian faith. The New Testament contains many warnings about apostates and the danger they pose. Many years later the Apostle Paul picked up on that image and warned the Ephesian elders that after his departure false teachers would come in like ravenous wolves, devouring the flock of God Acts And as we have seen in our recent sermons, the Apostle John said that there are many deceivers who have gone out into the world. Such people are the very spirit of the antichrist 2 John 7. Cunning Devices In fact there are so many warnings in the New Testament about apostates that one of two conclusions must be reached: The message of the Holy Spirit is very clear. Be on your guard! Keep your eyes open. Watch lest you led astray. Be ready to contend for the faith. No one said it more forcefully than a man named Jude. His message is desperately needed today. And it is most appropriate for this week in Oak Park. What can we say about this little book called Jude? Here are some adjectives. It is short, powerful, colorful, direct, pungent, pointed, piercing, and penetrating. In only 25 verses Jude dissects the acts of the apostates, revealing their character, their doctrine, their moral error, and their ultimate destiny He also reveals how believers should respond to moral and spiritual apostasy. Although he pulls no punches, Jude is no angry ranter. He writes with deep concern and real compassion for the people of God. In a handful of verses he paints a vivid picture of the apostates all around us. And then he gives a strategy for victory. Contend for the Faith We pick up the story in verse 3 as Jude tells us that what he intended to write is not what he ended up writing: Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude evidently intended to write a pastoral letter of encouragement, but he felt the spiritual danger was so great that he had to change his mind. The whole theme of the letter is found in one phrase: It includes the inspiration of the Bible, the Trinity, the Deity of Jesus Christ, his virgin birth, his sinless life, his death and resurrection, his ascension in heaven, and his second coming to the earth. But notice something else. Can I trust you to take care of it and pass it along to the next generation? That means that there are no guarantees that your grandchildren will share your faith because Christianity is always just one generation from extinction. But is there anything as Christian that you will fight and die for? Or have you become so used to sin and compromise that anything goes and nothing makes you angry anymore? There are times when we need to rise up and contend for the faith lest we lose it altogether. This is a command of Almighty God and we dare not ignore it. There are some truths worth fighting for and some things that are so evil they must be opposed – even at the risk of losing friends. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. This passage is important because it is so incredibly specific. Anytime you go to war you need a clear understanding of your adversaries. He tells us four things about the apostates in this verse: All of that leads me to an important principle. While all sin is evil, some sins are indeed worse than others. I remind you that Jesus reserved his harshest words not for prostitutes or drunkards but for hypocritical religious leaders Matthew Or perhaps I should say religious mis-leaders. It is one thing to prefer the darkness, it is something else to lead others into the pit with you. God will not hold guiltless the man or woman who in the name of religion leads others astray see the stinging words of Jesus in Matthew On Tuesday night several hundred people gathered at the village hall to give testimony before the vote. The gays and lesbians came out in force and packed the place.

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However, several people from Calvary were there, including Pastor Davis Duggins, whose excellent testimony was replaced on several local TV stations. Since the entire proceeding was televised on local-access cable, I watched most of the testimony and the vote itself. At one point a very angry gay man got up and quoted from a sermon I preached last April on the wrath of God in which I said that Oak Park is under the judgment of God for welcoming homosexuals to our community. I also said that electing a lesbian to the village board is a mark of our corporate shame. No Need to Back Down The next morning I opened both local papers and saw the same quotes—one in a letter to the editor from the gay minister of the Unity Temple and the other in a column by a local writer. Evidently someone has come to Calvary, picked up copies of my printed sermons, passed them around, and is trying to use my own words against me. In light of what has happened, I need to make one point very clear. I stand by every word I said in the sermon on the wrath of God. I stand by it because every word is true. I see no need to back down from the truth. Moving in the Wrong Direction And in order that no one mistake what I am trying to say, let me point out that our village has taken two major steps in the wrong direction in the last six months: It appears to me our local leaders have no shame. They seem determined to lead us into the gutter of moral depravity. One local newspaper apparently intends to be at the head of the parade. But one question remains. Is Oak Park really under the judgment of God? And if it is, what are we doing living in a place like this? First of all, in a general sense, the whole world is under judgment for sin and rebellion against God. That explains why in the last days perilous times will come as men and women increasingly turn away from God and run after their own evil desires see 2 Timothy 3: We live in a sin-cursed world. We often talk about America as the greatest nation on earth—and this is truly a wonderful place to live—yet who among us can feel good about the 40 million babies slaughtered through abortion since , the rising tide of divorce, illegitimacy, drug use, and the burgeoning gay rights movement. We could paraphrase that proverb this way: Third, Oak Park increasingly revels in its freedom by welcoming moral evil. In the name of tolerance we have surrendered at every point to the gay and lesbian minority in our midst. In the name of diversity we have changed our policies in the public schools. In the name of open-mindedness we publish stories praising men marrying men and women marrying women. And we attack and revile those who dare to stand on the Word of God and speak the truth. I meant exactly what I said last April and I stand by it today. Why Not Move to St. I can think of several answers to that question. First and foremost, God has called us here. Why leave now just when things are starting to get exciting? Furthermore, I believe that we as evangelical Christians—not just Calvary but all evangelical Christians in this area—we are the salt of Oak Park and the light of this village Matthew 5: Salt has many uses, but in biblical times it served first as a preservative against decay. Oak Park is a better community because we are here and it would be a worse community were we to leave. If you leave here, where will you go to be safe from these problems? Suppose you go to St. Charles, or Geneva or Batavia and buy one of those big houses where the taxes are lower and the yards are bigger. Those communities have their own problems, and the modern media brings the message of gay propaganda in every home with a radio, a TV or an Internet connection. You might as well stay here with the rest of us. Third, if we leave, who will be left to share Jesus Christ with the people of Oak Park? But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Ground yourself in the Word of God. Then keep on praying. Finally, keep your eyes on the skies as you wait for Jesus to return from heaven. In all the world around me I see his loving care, And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair; I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast, The day of his appearing will come at last. He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.

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Chapter 5 : The Most Epic Monster List Of Missionary Quotes On The Internet - David Joannes

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: V. Raymond Edman was an American minister and author who served as the fourth President of Wheaton College in Illinois from to Victor Raymond Edman was born in Chicago, Illinois as one of six children to Swedish immigrants Anders and Alma Edman.

If we are not able to attend, for any valid reason, then we may benefit from listening to sermons that are published online. Most churches that have a good size membership also have live sermons. And, this is not merely any passive listening i. We are actively listening, hearing what God desires for us to hear, and even taking notes. This may require some preparation on our part to "tune in" to be open to the teachings and admonishes of the spirit. Reading the word of God is another layer to becoming more authentic in our Christian life and character. As we read the scriptures, we may experience blessings as what we read begins to enlighten us to who we are, what our purpose is in this life, and how we are to be of service toward other individuals. Regular and consistent Bible reading helps us develop greater sense of worth, freedom, fun, and belonging. Find time - it is typically recommended to start your day with a morning reading. However, one of the greater benefits is to do what is called "bookending" by starting your day with prayer and reading the scriptures; and, then, ending your day with prayer and reading the scriptures. Explore and find the specific Bible reading plan that works for you. This helps a person read through the Bible in one year and provides life principle concepts in a short minute devotional format. Find at least one specific word, phrase, or verse to meditate on. Each session we spend in reading from the scriptures ought to leave us in a place of mindfully meditating on what the passage reflects and how we are capable of applying it in our lives if in the morning or how it may help us relax and reflect on the blessings and trials of the day if in the evening. While reading will provide inspiration and breath to our Christian life. Studying the word of God is also a spiritual discipline as we come to know the truth of what the Gospel is, who Christ is, the ministry of those whom God has called, and how we are to sustain and maintain a healthy lifestyle. We desire to have quality intake instead of quantity of what we read. This moves us to where we begin to memorize scriptural passages. Storing passages in our minds allows us to bring them up when we are in need. We often are not carrying our scriptures around, and in certain situations, may not even have time to call up specific passages through our phones or tablets. Memorizing scriptures helps us keep our "spiritual sword" at the ready as we face spiritual battles. In addition, as we memorize scripture, we are strengthening our own faith in God. One way to memorize scripture maybe accomplished by the following: Selecting specific verses that center around particular topics - especially the areas of life the Spirit of God is working on. Memorizing sections of passages at a time. There are a variety of ways we are able to memorize scripture passages. The ultimate principle here is to not see how many passages we are able to memorize and recall. We are not just merely reading to check of a "to-do list". We are reading in order to reflect on what the passage means for us today. We are to consider the teachings, the context, the inspiration we derive from reading the passage. It means we are emptying our mind of things that may prove distracting, causing worry, or any possible emotional distress. Our focus is on deepening our understanding, ways to apply the revealed truths of scripture, and engage in a more mindful and meaningful prayer. Finally, we start living out an authentic Christian life because we are applying principle truths into our lives. They prayed for provisions, for strength, for insight, and even prayed for forgiveness for self and country. However, no other individual exemplified the heart and nature of prayer than Christ himself. Every encounter we read about Christ, he is always in prayer. In fact, the greatest prayer we come to is the time he spent in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is where he will be betrayed, taken into custody, and eventually tried, convicted, scourged, and crucified. The Apostle Paul teaches we are to devote ourselves to prayer Colossians 4: Through prayer, we are able to cultivate a relationship with the Sovereign God who had created each one of us. There, we are able to petition the Lord regarding our struggles, relate our concerns, pray for others, seek forgiveness, and to seek after guidance and provisions. Through prayer, we begin to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. We pray

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individually, with others, and pray for what is important as we are moved upon by the Holy Spirit. Prayer is our way to communicate with God. Worship is the life of A. Tozer is marked by the way he engaged in worshipping God. He was completely committed to this one solemn activity and pursued it with all the passion he had. Tozer hammered his ideas regarding worship into convictions that governed his life and ministry. Christ tells us that there are many people who do well in honoring God, however, when it comes to the heart of man, they are far removed from God. See Matthew 23:1-3. Worship is more than "lip service". When we are worshipping, we are focusing on and responding to God. In most larger member churches, one feels more like a participant in a large concert than actual worshipping God. While there is nothing wrong with utilization of instruments, what appears to be more and more reprehensible in worship is the idolization of entertaining than preparing the hearts and minds of men and women to feast from hearing the word of God. Along with this, it is how we approach corporate, and even private worship, that may prevent us from experiencing God and becoming transformed to a more richer authentic Christian Life. Joe McKeever published an article at Crosswalk regarding 7 things we regularly get wrong about worship. Worship helps us transform our lives as we seek the heart, mind, and will of God. How we worship reflects our relationship with God. Corporate worship is beautiful, because the church gathers together to worship together. But we were not meant to just be worshippers for 30 minutes on a Sunday morning. Source: Evangelism. One of the best quotes that is falsely attributed to St. Francis of Assisi is this: Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words. Regardless, the relevance of this statement is simple: It is by far better to allow our actions and behaviors to prove we are Christians than by our mere utterances of "I am a Christian". Most often, when it comes to evangelism, it is to "preach the Gospel". While this may be true, the greater message of Evangelism rests upon "teaching" the Gospel. A gentleman by the name of Bobby Conway published a book titled: *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and The Premise of this Book is to Live Out the Gospel, as a Means to Evangelize Rather than to Preach the Gospel*. Since we understand that evangelism is communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are empowered through our actions and behaviors to communicate to others the hope that lies within us. See 1 Peter 2:9: Christ reflects that we are the "light of the world" and instead of hiding our light which is the Light of Christ, we are to shine that light in an ever-darkening world. See, Matthew 5:14-16: This is not something we do casually. It is a real commitment to God where our relationship with Him becomes a priority. Whitney identifies six motivating factors as it relates to service: Motivated by obedience through the commandments of God. See, Deuteronomy 10:12-13: It is a matter of not only finding our gifts to be of service, it is a manner of being available and ready to serve when called upon. And, the way we provide service is dependent upon the context and relationships we have. Husbands and wives serve one another in marriage. Parents serve their children as their children in turn serve their parents. Opportunities to serve in various capacities of ministry. Even finding opportunities to be of service in the community. What it means to be of service. Source: Stewardship being a hallmark of authentic Christianity. In the beginning, a Sovereign God gave humanity stewardship over His creation. Since the Fall, man has spent majority of his time to secure, manipulate, oppress, and bring into dominion wealth as a means to bolster his own God-like ego. Throughout this article, we discussed what it means to develop Christian virtues and characteristics through spiritual disciplines that transform our lives into a Godly and Christ-like image and likeness. The opposing view is where humanity vies himself as God and denies the reality and existence of anything higher than himself. On our journey to a transforming and maturing spiritual and authentic Christian way of living involves in our ability to become good stewards. Stewardship involves how we manage and utilize our time and economic resources. Regarding time, Whitney provides 10 sound biblical resources in which we want to begin to live out. Here, we will only mention 7 as they all correlate with one another: Using time wisely because we are susceptible to the way we may fall into temptation because of our own natural desires of the "flesh" and the influence and power we permit the adversary to have in our own lives. Our very thoughts are to be disciplined toward that of Christ. See, Colossians 3:1-2: This requires discipline in doing things with purpose and meaning. Preparation for our eternal abode is revealed in the parable of the ten virgins. Christ came and set us free. As we await his return, or our

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return to him, our life and time here in this mortal existence is to use it in preparing to meet Christ. There is no going back, no retake, no ability to undo the loss time we have had to be ready. As youth, we have a view of life that we are invincible, we have a lot of time, and age is something of a distant future. Yet, as we move through the human life span and experience, when we become older, we realize our time is drawing to an end. In essence, time is relatively short. And, in the scope of eternity, our human existence is merely a moment. How we spend our time living out the Gospel of Christ, seeking after Christ, and living according to the Sovereign will of God will determine how we are becoming stewards over our own life. Passage of Time is sudden and quick see 1 John 2:

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Chapter 6 : Renewing Your Passion | Keep Believing Ministries

Excerpts taken from "They Found the Secret" By V. Raymond Edman. They Found the Secret began as a series of twenty articles written for Christian Life magazine that were gathered together in a book in

Living Contentedly for Christ Part 41 Date: Jul 3, Passage: As the end of days approaches, you can find hope as you learn to live contentedly for Christ! I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Last week, we focused on how to give God what is His in this life. Worldliness itself can be a symptom of being totally stressed out, weary with the continual "drip, drip, drip" of the demands of living in a fast-paced society that is spinning out of control. But that is not a long term solution, and it certainly does not contribute to building a fireproof life. If anyone should have been stressed out and weary, it was Jesus. He lived the perfect human life, yet He lived in a whirlwind of activity. He was constantly eating, walking, talking, and sleeping with twelve men who never seemed to leave Him alone. He was even chided, rebuked, and scoffed at by His own family. Jesus was also the personal target of Satan, who tempted Him, tried to derail Him, and entered people to drive them to destroy Him. He was thus attacked by every demon that could be rounded up to scream at Him, thrash around in front of Him, and seek to bother Him. How did He do that? If we follow Christ, we can find His secret. Although He lived an extremely full, busy, and demanding life, every time Jesus is seen in the Scriptures He is composed, and led by the Spirit. Jesus was God, yet He lived the perfect human life as a man. What kept that perfect life on earth so strong? It was time alone with God that rested His soul. He had cultivated the discipline of resting in His Father by being alone with Him. Jesus had learned the secret of waiting on God. And He calls each of us to do the same. So you must learn to seek and find a solitary place in your life to be alone with God regularly. If you do, this is what you will find: Christ is your "holy place" and your "righteousness. Christ is your safe and strong "shoulder. Christ is your "fellowship. Christ is your "stronghold" or "fortress. Christ is "exalted" and He is in the "heights. Christ is "separated" and holy, made higher than the heavens. He is the only Refuge when you struggle and feel so weak when you are tempted. You will find so much more in Christ if you spend time alone with Him regularly. Instead of fleeing to the world and its enticements, flee to Jesus as your Refuge from weariness! My Prayer for You This Week: Father, our hope is in You. You are our Refuge. Although You do not remove the difficulties of life, You just make it so much sweeter in those times when we flee to You. For there in Your embrace we find hope and joy and peace and strength to go on-and to go back and to endure until You come or call. May we do that in Your glorious name, that name that is above every name. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen. Finding Christ "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. A new believer typically asks, "Can I hold out? What are some common roots for weariness? Consider these comments on the subject of change and stress: While choices multiply, we stay pretty much the same. Our bodies and minds remain the bottleneck through which choice must pass. We still have the same brains our forebearers did, still only twenty-four hours a day to use them. We still need time and energy to listen, look, absorb, distinguish, and decide. The opportunity to choose among many options is, of course, a good thing. But maybe you can have too much of a good thing? Even of choice itself? Then your peace would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea" Isaiah Today, our lives are addictively intertwined in the economic system, and the credit-debt mentality has been fully normalized. Someone has described a modern American as a person "who drives a credit union-financed car over a bond-financed highway on credit card gas to open a charge account at a department store so he can fill his bank-financed home with installment-purchased furniture. Even our sentences are peppered with such words as time crunch, fast food, rush hour, frequent flyer, expressway, overnight delivery, and rapid transit. The products and services we use further attest to our hurry: We pull in our speeding cars for gas and snacks at QuikTrip, send packages overnight by Federal Express, talk while we do other things on a cell phone service called Sprint, manage our personal finances on Quicken, schedule our appointments on a DayRunner, diet

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with SlimFast, and even buy swimming gear made by Speedo. Yes, the world is going faster. And yes, we in turn are also going faster. But the important question no one asks is this: When does faster become too fast? Is there a speed limit to life? What happens when we exceed it? Does God give us a ticket? I have thought long and hard about the issue of speed and have come to believe that it is as much responsible for the problem of personal and societal dysfunction as any other single factor. Virtually all of our relationships are damaged by hurry. Many families are being starved to death by velocity. Our children lie wounded on the ground, run over by our high-speed good intentions. We need to be alone with God daily. We need to find times to get away alone. We need to get up early if necessary. Few of us are called to spend many hours in daily prayer, but all of us must spend some time. If it is impossible when the family is awake, pray before they get up. If you have no place you can do this at home, find a place to park your car on the way to work and pray in the anonymity of the passing traffic. However you do this is up to you, but you need to make time to find Christ who is the Refuge for the weary! Respond to Christ "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Note the three imperatives: He seeks us, finds us, and offers His perfect rest to us. Jesus said, "I am the answer. Rest for the weary starts with salvation because the lost and disobedient believers have no rest in their sin. Restlessness is their lifestyle: Jesus called for us to completely turn unto Him as the way to live life. Now look at the bold second half of verse This sounds so beautiful in the word-for-word rendering of the Greek. Here is each word in order of the text: Come toward Me all the ones laboring and the ones having been packed, and I will rest you. This calls for us to admit that something is wrong. We have to acknowledge our need. Therefore, Jesus calls for those who are overloaded-"all the ones laboring and the ones having been packed"-to come to Him. Is life itself a laborious effort for you? Then Jesus says, "You need to listen to Me. By getting to the root of the problem. Today, we will cover the first part of a diagnostic test that can help you discern whether you are suffering from this deadly condition called "overload. We book our lives weeks into the future, and often in the desire to be more efficient, we book several things into the same time period. Hold still so that you can know Me. We allow our lives to have change overload. For thousands of years of recorded history change came in a slow, controlled, and understandable rate, but now we are brutally jerked forward at warp speed-whether we like it or not.

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Chapter 7 : Discipline Makes the Difference – Scott Pauley

Gordon MacDonald recalls Wheaton College President V. Raymond Edman, 40 years ago speaking in chapel. Edman had just finished telling about the time he had carefully rehearsed for his audience with the then Emperor of Ethiopia.

Good times in ministry do not have the same Richter quotient, as do tough times. Good times take place when church attendance, offerings, congregational good will, and spiritual life are high. This is pastoral nirvana. But what if those positive elements are not present where you are now serving? Is it time to leave? And how do you leave a ministry gracefully when relationships have failed and your spirit is wounded? Defining that kind of negative reality and then taking positive steps if you can find them may require the spiritual artistry of a Barnabas. Maintain good successor relations Prepare the way for the successor with the congregation Prepare the way for the congregation with the successor Spend quality time with your successor with an agreed on agenda Talk about your successor only in positive terms Do not make comparison between yourself and your successor 2. Share ownership and responsibility for the move Affirm or at least acknowledge itinerancy and your ownership of the process Do not blame others for the move Do not use closure to get back at others Be gracious to everyone 3. Provide good records and administrative wrap-up Prepare essential lists for your successor and make sure important files are up to date Make sure church bills are paid through the month you leave Make sure apportionments are paid through the month you leave Never leave any unpaid personal bills Do not take church records with you 4. Adequate goodbyes, grief, and closure rituals Provide adequate rituals for going and coming Find appropriate ways to say goodbye and grieve with congregation and family Grant and ask for forgiveness Tell the people you love them Have personal visits and write personal notes where appropriate 5. Clarify your new relationship with the church Clarify in spoken and written communication your new relationship with the people Do not promise to come back Take time to teach the congregation about closure and boundaries Affirm love and friendship while releasing persons from pastoral relationships 6. Leave the parsonage and office clean and in order 7. Keep working Continue vital ministry and avoid emotional withdrawal Settle as many hanging difficulties as possible Do not initiate major new programs in the closing months Handle hanging staffing difficulties rather than pass them on St. Beginning Ministry in a New Setting. These studies provide resources for clergy and congregations. Oswald says that recognizing the history and background of a congregation is an important factor in determining whether a pastor, when under attack, should resign or stay. For instance, if a church has perpetually solved its problems by getting rid of leadership, pushing yet another pastor out will not serve its welfare. That simply repeats the negative cycle. Sometimes pastors need to hang in there with the support of their denomination. Suppose, however, you miss the warning signals and are asked to leave. What happens at that point? And how do you recover? This often begins a downward spiral, sometimes ending even in a divorce. Despite the emotional shock, a pastor must seek an objective answer to this question: Do I still have a valid ministry? Consider the following scenario: Sometimes the pastor did nothing wrong. It may have more to do with restlessness within the church, and the notion that new leadership will bring fresh ideas. I watched a pastor face such a situation after over 20 years at a fine church. He had done nothing immoral. He had not pilfered the cash drawer. The first sign of a seismic tremor came without warning. The board told him they had lost confidence in his leadership. This pastor responded by telling the board that he had spent years trying to build the church and would not spend a single day tearing it down. He would go quietly and take the high road during his last few Sundays. He reminded the board that any negative consequences would be their responsibility. Rather than listing their grievances, the board became silent. Even the plans for a farewell celebration were filled with tension. Some demanded answers; and when they did not get them, they left the church. Other staff members lost their focus on the mission of the church. A heaviness settled over the services, and speculation took root as rumors blossomed in the absence of explanations. Guidelines for Leaving Wayne Kraiss, former Vanguard University president, and now an interim pastor to churches in difficult transitions, offers guidelines to pastors on how to leave with

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grace. He suggests these acts will empower your legacy and will probably be the most important sermon you give to the church. Do not attack the board or any group in the church regardless of how unfair you feel you are being treated. That compromises everything you have said and taught. Do not whine or act as if you are the victim of some plot. Even if you feel abused in the process, follow the example of turning the other cheek and giving up your coat. Tell the congregation you love them and want the very best for them and the church. Tell the congregation you want to leave an example of what peacemaking looks like. Let them know the youth of the church are watching. This is the most important teaching opportunity you may have had in all the years of your ministry. Make it count for good. Share your dilemma with the board and congregation. Tell them you are committed to being a peacemaker. It is better not to discuss some issues and not answer some questions. Remind them that even Jesus told His disciples there were things He would like to share with them but they were not able to bear them. Contact your district leadership and share the facts openly with them. If you need someone to vent with, vent with them. If you need someone to feel sorry for you, let them be the ones to feel sorry for you. If you want to be sure people know you did nothing wrong, tell them. Advise the board to request assistance from the district leadership. This is a very critical moment in the church. District leadership can be a tremendous blessing to both you and the congregation. Never use the pulpit to set the record straight. Exalt Christ and preach about how much He loves the Church and His desire to see it built. Remember the lost in the community who need a strong and vibrant church. Do not forget that people in the congregation have their own problems and should not come to church to hear about all of its problems or your personal issues. Ask the board to become involved in transitional prayer groups. It is difficult to throw stones very far from your knees. While you are still at the church, provide prayer lists for the groups to use each week. Make the lists positive and focused on the future. Never use them to leak information about the unjust treatment you have received. Assist the board by suggesting they choose a vice-chairman to lead them in your absence if they do not already have one. Look carefully at the bylaws to see the process for pastoral transitions and help them get organized for that. Discuss the appropriateness of a timely departure. Generally, sooner is better. Do not labor the process or unnecessarily drag it out. Give the church an appropriate opportunity to plan a farewell and organize for a transition, but then get out of the way. Do not assume it is your responsibility to provide the next pastor with a list of people you trust and do not trust. The next pastor may seek your assessment, but do not offer it. It is best not to attempt church discipline at this time. Anything you attempt in this area will usually cause injury. There are often at least two sides to most stories. Suggest the church appoint an interim pastor. Depending on the size of the church, this may be a great help to the board and congregation. It may providetime for healing. Sudden change is hard on a congregation and often hard on the incoming pastor. Ask the Lord to remove any bitterness, anger, or hatred from your lips or attitude. Ask for a pure heart. Minister to your spouse and family. This is a dangerous time for you and your spouse. Do not inflame the situation by dumping all your anger and bitterness on your family. Be aware of your words and actions if you have children in the parsonage. Do not let others turn them into cynics and rebels. Shield them as a shepherd shields his flocks. Lead them beside still waters and into green pastures. As difficult as it may be for your family, trust the grace of God and leave the area. This will greatly enhance healing for you and your family.

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Chapter 8 : Healthy Exit Strategies: How To Know When It's Time To Move On and Best Prepare

Garrison Chapel Church and Cemetery. likes. We will be having our service at Tennyson Park and it will be an evangelistic outreach event. (racedaydvl.comd Edman.

The date was July 4, , and their baby son, Charles, was only seven weeks old. Just over a year earlier, Edith was radiant as a bride in her stunning, white wedding dress. Her adoring sweetheart, V. Raymond Edman, had eagerly awaited the wedding at mission headquarters in Quito, Ecuador. A friend, Will Reed, ordered a native coffin made of wood, covered in black cloth, to be ready for the burial. The climate of the tropics demands a quick interment. The funeral service was planned and scheduled for 3: They were married, welcomed their first child, and things were looking bright. God was blessing their work, and they were developing good relationships with the Indians. Then suddenly, death was lurking on their doorstep. Ray knew that he was dying, though he was unaware that people were busy preparing for his funeral. He recalled what his mother had told him as a childâ€”that often when people are about to die, their life plays out before their eyes; they remember the people and events that shaped them. This happened to Ray as he thought of his childhood home in Illinois, his grade school teachers, friends from school, his days serving in the army in World War I. Heaven is home to the believer, to that one who has become a child of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. But unlike Lazarus, Ray was never buried in that black coffin. And now the rest of the story. Suddenly Uncle Joe was burdened to intercede on behalf of Ray. He pleaded with the congregation of about two hundred to stop what they were doing and pray for V. Raymond Edman in Ecuador. What followed were some fiercely intense hours of prayer. Years later those present still remembered the fervency of their intercessions. He had seen beyond the veil, and what had greeted him was the unfathomable love of God. He was the second son of six children, was nearsighted, and wore thick glasses his whole life. He liked to read, was a good student, and showed leadership ability as he entered high school. He loved sports and public speaking and always had a sense for adventure. His family worshiped at the Swedish Missionary Church, and he grew up in a family devoted to prayer and Scripture reading. In his senior year of high school, in June , he accepted Christ as his Savior at an evangelistic service led by Dr. Once in the service, Ray, trained as a medic, longed to get overseas. Just before Christmas his unit endured a long march in the snow and cold of Eastern Germany. When they arrived at a lice-ridden, former POW camp for Russian soldiers, Edman was exhausted, ill, and feverish. All he wanted to do was fall on a bed and sleep. But a burly first sergeant commanded Edman to lead a detail of five men to another company miles away. As the rest of the men assigned to this march prepared their belongings, Edman slipped in to an empty room that the Russians had used as a tavern. And I do not know how far C Company may be stationed! He knew immediately that it was Jesus. He then led his group through the deep snow and trudged throughout the afternoon, eventually arriving at a home in Bodenâ€”C Company headquarters. The woman of the house, noticing that Ray was not well, gave him a hot meal and a warm feather bed in the attic with her brother rather than bunking him in the unheated room with the other soldiers. He already spoke Swedish, German, and English. During a Bible conference between his freshman and sophomore years, through the influence of Paul Rader, the pastor of Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, Edman dedicated himself to missionary service in South America. When Rader became the president of the Missionary Training Institute in Nyack, New York, Edman decided to take a one-year break from his studies at Illinois and teach Spanish and take courses at Nyack. Uncle Joe saw great potential in Ray, and out of that developed a lifelong Paulâ€”Timothy-type relationship. Sensing that Ray was somewhat restless, Uncle Joe invited him to move to Boston and live with him as he explored what God had in store. When you abandon yourself, God will reveal it. Soon after his graduation, Edman traveled to Ecuador for mission work, with the plan that Edith would soon join him. Ray and Edith loved their mission work in Ecuador. They were able to start a small Bible school, and in five years of marriage they were blessed with two sons, Charles and Roland. They had witnessed firsthand the miraculous life-giving power of God as Ray walked through the valley of the

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shadow of death. In an effort to regain his health, Edman traveled with his three-year-old son, Charles, to the United States to see if a change in climate would help him physically. Edith and their one-year-old son, Roland, stayed behind in Ecuador awaiting their return. Yes, Lord, anywhere in Ecuador Thou mayest say. Everything was laid at His nail-scarred feet, life or death, health or illness, appreciation by others or misunderstanding, success or failure as measured by human standards. Only He Himself mattered. The idea of teaching at Wheaton had never crossed his mind. Yet two months later, this word from the Lord was confirmed when Edman was invited to join the faculty of Wheaton College, in Illinois. Teaching history, Edman soon became one of the most popular professors on campus. He also gained respect among the faculty for his sharp mind, clear thoughts on education, and ability to communicate well in public settings. During his tenure, the college expanded its financial endowments, its enrollment rose by 50 percent, and the campus added fourteen buildings. He established the Office of Chaplain, witnessed a campus revival in , and had a lasting impact on the lives of faculty, staff, and students such as Billy Graham. Mentor to Billy Graham Soon after Edman became president of Wheaton College, his mother and brother happened to hear a young preacher by the name of Billy Graham while they were vacationing in Florida. They encouraged Graham to go to Wheaton College to get further training. He accepted their counsel and enrolled at Wheaton in the fall of Crossing campus one of my first days there, I was greeted by a person I did not recognize. I found out the next day he was president of the college. Their second meeting took place at a prayer meeting when Dr. Graham would write, I never dreamed this was the beginning of one of the warmest, most enduring and important friendships of my entire life. Here was a man deep in the things of God, his life saturated with Scripture and prayer. Here was a man of courage and integrityâ€”but most of all compassionâ€” He was a marvelous listener. His counseling and his prayers were usually brief but to the point. In the years to come, whenever Billy had a major decision to make, he would call Prexy. Billy Graham has noted that as he traveled the world he would meet people who told him how they had been positively influenced by Raymond Edman. Edman passed the baton of the Wheaton presidency to his former Wheaton student, now proven leader, who was also a friend of Uncle Joe: Edman was promoted to the position of chancellor so that he could continue to represent Wheaton, albeit with a lighter load. He was also elected as the senior vice president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Students on the Wheaton campus were struggling with how to make sense of it all. Edman knew that what Christians in Wheaton and elsewhere needed was a return to seeking a daily audience with the King of kings. He began his chapel message by telling of an invitation he received to enter the throne room of King Selassie. Then Edman stated, But I speak primarily of another King. This chapel is the house of the King. Chapel is designed to be a meeting on your part with the King of kings and the Lord of lords Himself. To that end, chapel is designed for the purpose of worshipâ€”not a lecture, not an entertainment, but a time of meeting the King. Coming in, sit down and wait in silence before the Lord. In so doing, you will prepare your own hearts to hear the Lord, to meet with the King. Raymond Edman, husband, father, friend, soldier, missionary, pastor, professor, mentor, devotional writer, college president and chancellor, was first and foremost a disciple of Jesus Christ. In his book *They Found the Secret*, Edman noticed a common pattern that is lived out by mature disciples of Jesus: The pattern seems to be self-centeredness, self-effort, increasing dissatisfaction and outer discouragement, a temptation to give it all up because there is no better way, and then finding the Spirit of God to be their strength, their guide, their confidence and companionâ€”in a word, their life. The crisis of the deeper life is the key that unlocks the secret of their transformation. It is the beginning of the exchanged life. What is the exchanged life? Really it is not some thing; it is some One. And so can we. In the Presence of the King Moody Press: Chicago, , Raymond Edman, *They Found the Secret*: Zondervan, , Edman, *They Found the Secret*, Quoted in Edman, *They Found the Secret*, 8â€”9. Billy Graham, *Just as I Am*: Quoted in Edman, *They Found the Secret*, 5â€”6. Quoted in Edman, *They Found the Secret*, 8.

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Chapter 9 : Profile In Faith- V. Raymond Edman - page 2 | C.S. Lewis Institute

Although we have lost our house and our possessions, we have not lost the Lord, and He is enough. With the Lord I have everything. The only thing I would fear losing is His blessing!

By Scott Pauley January 24, 0 Through the years that I have been privileged to work in a Bible college I have met so many extremely talented, capable young people. And yet, it has always puzzled me that the ones who seem to have the greatest promise often do not finish. On the other hand, there are students with far less ability who finish, finish well, and go on to serve the Lord. What is that unseen, unknown quality that is the difference between those who dream and those who do? Educational institutions speak of disciplines, or branches of instruction. Yet few of the students that pass through those halls ever learn the power and joy of a truly disciplined life. Discipline is more than education. It is at the heart of good business. It is the secret of successful athletes. It is the key to great men. Most of all, it is at the heart of what is meant by being a true follower of Jesus Christ. Perhaps if we exercised more personal discipline we would be subjected to less discipline by our loving Father. Discipline is indeed hard to define. It is best understood by its absence. When there is a lack of discipline, it always shows. Coleridge is the supreme tragedy of indiscipline. Never did so great a mind produce so little. He left Cambridge University to join the army; he left the army because he could not rub down a horse; he returned to Oxford and left without a degree. It has been said of him: Coleridge had every poetic gift but one – the gift of sustained and concentrated effort. No one ever reached any eminence, and no one having reached it ever maintained it, without discipline. Tragically, the story of Coleridge is the story of most men. Full of potential that will never be realized. The subject of discipline is not just for college students; it is for all of us. It is not just a matter for youth – it is for life. Recommended books for further reading: *The Disciplines of Life* by V. Kent Hughes Share this: