

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

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PART 1: PLANNING YOUR SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

EARTHLY EDUCATION

Most people give little thought to the amount of time they spend preparing for the future. The following numbers are based upon an unbroken timeline that begins at the age of six when most children finish kindergarten.

- ❖ Children in the United States are expected to finish 12 years of schooling in order to enter adulthood and be productive. This means 18.2% of your existence is spent preparing for the next phase of life.
- ❖ A person straight out of high school will work for 48 years until they reach the retirement age of 66.
- ❖ Some people make the decision to attend college so they can attain a higher paying job. This means a college graduate spends 16 years or 24% of his life preparing for the next 44 years.
- ❖ Still others make the decision to become even more specialized in a particular field. This post graduate work adds yet another four years of schooling. These people will spend 20 years or 39% of their life in school and further reduce their working years to 40.
- ❖ A person aspiring to be a medical doctor will spend at least another four years – 45% of their life – to earn a medical degree and this reduces their time of labor to 36 years.

The more education you can obtain, the more you will be admired by others for bettering yourself and improving your ability to get a good paying job and enjoying a more comfortable life on earth. **Luke 16:8**

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

Imagine that Bob starts attending Sunday school at 4 years old. He has been in church all his life, but it is not until he reaches the age of four that he begins to understand biblical matters. When he reaches 7 years old, he will begin to attend weekly children's meetings. At the age of 15, he will start attending Sunday morning worship in addition to Sunday school. Let's examine the following numbers:

| | Christian meetings | Worldly television |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ages 4-7 | 156 hours | 1,092 hours |
| Ages 7-15 | 416 hours | 1,664 hours |
| | 572 hours | 2,756 hours |
| | 0.06 years | 0.32 years |



Let's assume that Bob has become motivated and attending weekly prayer meetings and Bible studies along with Sunday morning and evening services. That means that Bob will spend an additional 4 hours per week in church, totaling 208 hours per year or 0.02 years.

If Bob is a praying man that also reads his Bible, he will allocate another 30 minutes a day, which comes out to 624 hours per year or 0.07 years.

If Bob goes home to be with the Lord at age of 75, he will have spent 12,480 hours in church, which represents 1.4 years of his life.

Now if you make a comparison of that to Bob's time spent in front of the television, with an estimated three hours per day, it would add up to 64,800 hours or 7.5 years.

Bob also needs to sleep 8 hours per day and that amounts to 2,920 hours per year. If Bob lives to age 75, that will equal 219,000 hours or 25 years.

If Bob works 8 hours per day from age 18 and retires at age 66, he will spend 140,160 hours or 16 years of his life working.

Bob must also eat three meals per day, and we will allocate two hours per day for eating, which amounts to 6.25 years of his life. That means that Bob will have 11.03 years left to spend on personal time, being with family and friends and some recreation. When Bob reaches the age of 75, we can make this summary:

- ❖ Preparing for eternity: 1.46 years
- ❖ Watching television: 7.5 years
- ❖ Eating: 6.25 years
- ❖ Working: 16 years
- ❖ Sleeping: 25 years
- ❖ Spending time with family, friends and personal time: 18.79 years

Bob would be considered a "good Christian" according to these numbers since the average Christian in America only attends church once a week and does not pray or read the Bible. The average Christian will spend just 3,120 hours of his life in church or 0.36 years.

Most Christians never lead anyone to Christ during their lifetime. If every Christian would lead just one person to Christ per year, we would outnumber the unbelievers.

Pastors, evangelist and Sunday school teachers spend time studying, praying and presenting the Gospel, but for the lay people in the American church it is a disgrace.

A high school graduate spends 12 years preparing for life on earth as an adult while a "good Christian" like Bob spends 1.46 years preparing for eternal life in heaven.

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

Every Christian should sit down and work out an educational plan that prepares them for eternity. We need to enroll in God's university and start taking classes to get the education and the skills we will need in eternity. **Matthew 6:19-21**

There is just one entrance requirement to enroll in God's university. You must be born again and the good news is that the tuition is paid in full by Jesus when we repent. **John 3:1-8; Romans 10:8-13; Ephesians 2:8-10**

Once you have been admitted, there are another two requirements set by Jesus. The first is water baptism and the second is to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:4-8**

Failure to meet these requirements will negatively affect your grades when they are handed out at the Judgment Seat of Christ. **1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11**

CURRICULUM

There are no elective courses in God's university. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance are mandatory character subjects. **Galatians 5:22-23**

There are also practical courses that must be completed in order to do well at graduation:

- ❖ Sharing the Gospel – **Matthew 28:18-20**
- ❖ Casting out demons – **Matthew 10:1**
- ❖ Healing the sick – **verse 7**
- ❖ Ministering to the poor – **Luke 14:12-14**
- ❖ Not defrauding people who work for you – **James 5:1-6**

BIBLE VERSIONS

Christians who fail to read the Bible or someone who only reads a poor translation like the New International Version (NIV) will be misled into believing that they have a complete translation.

The Mormons have their own Bible translation to back up their false doctrine. The Jehovah's Witnesses has their own Bible translation and so do the Roman Catholics.

The Pentecostals and Evangelicals don't use the King James Bible anymore and are using everything from the NIV to The Message paraphrase. This results in total confusion.

There are three units of measurement throughout the world which are used to design and build everything: Metric system, British imperial units and US customary units.

Before an engineer can begin calculating and designing, he must decide the unit of measurement in which he will work. He cannot work in all three or just in two; all the units of measurement must be of the same system. A car built in Europe or Japan is designed and produced in the metric system and tools from any other system will not work with that car.

When it comes to the Bible, the most accurate translation from Hebrew and Greek is found in the King James Version. Most modern Bibles have been either changed on purpose or translated from a corrupt manuscript.

A Christian using an inferior Bible translation will not have the full truth, but will be exposed to lies and led into heresy. **Revelation 22:18-19**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?