

GETTING A GRIP ON LIFE 2!

Revelation 3:7-13

INTRODUCTION: Last week we talked about the foundational two opposable thumbs for getting a grip on life: We talked about Bible study and prayer. Today we will talk about eight other Christian disciplines that are needed to have a good grasp on life according to God's Word.

Third: Stewardship! 1 Chronicles 29:14: Our God made and owns everything. All we have been given by Him as a stewardship for His glory and honor. 1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Corinthians 4:7. Our God has blessed our lives so we might be a blessing to others: 1 Timothy 6:17-19. We must keep first things first: Matthew 6:33; so sadly, we often put the things of this life first and the things of our God last. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 12:15; Acts 20:35; Proverbs 15:16-17; Luke 6:38.

Forth: Worship! Sadly, for so many we worship the wrong things: Romans 12:25: We worship what should be used and use what should be worshipped. Matthew 4:8-11: today how is your grip on worship. Who or what do you serve most?

Fifth: Personal Evangelism! You may think you are not supposed to evangelize because that is not your primary gift: Wrong! Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8. You are probably a Christian today because someone told you the gospel; now it is your turn to share your faith.

Sixth: Missions! We as God's children are all called to be involved with world missions! Acts 1:8; Matthew 9:36-38. We are not all called to go overseas to the mission fields but we are all called to give to our churches mission fund.

Seventh: Service! In every organization there is an 80/20 rule in work, giving and effort. 80% of the results come for 20% of the members. Scripture tells us that every member of each local church is to be involved in the life of that church: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:7-11. There are too many spiritual gifts and natural gifts collecting dust in the lives of too many Christians.

Eight: Mercy! One of the best proofs of a good grip on life is the man or woman, boy or girl who shows mercy! Extending mercy means not giving others what they have earned in a negative way. As sinners in God's sight we all deserve judgment and eternal punishment: instead our God extends His mercy to us all. Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:4-9. Those who have shared in God's mercy should themselves become more merciful: Luke 6:27-36.

Ninth: Wisdom and Knowledge! At the very height of King Solomon's reign, he began to lose his grip on life. He did not live according to the revelation God had given to him: Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10. The fear of the Lord is a reverential awe and exaltation of the Lord. Solomon stopped fearing the Lord because he lost his grip on life. Proverbs 28:13-14.

Tenth: Spiritual Warfare! Although we are headed to heaven, here on this earth we are at war. Having a good grip on life means we know that for now our world is temporarily under the dominion of Satan: Ephesians 6:10-13. Although the victory is already won, we must fight on: 1 John 3:8; Romans 8:31-39. We will win the battle so we must keep our grip on life so we don't fall for the tricks of the devil: Each of us must chose to live according to Genesis 42:36 or Romans 8:28. Romans 8:28 living is the only way to keep a good grip on life!