



“Leading a life
under control”



The quest for an extraordinary life

- “You haven’t lived until...”
 - Luke 15:11-13 – “And He said, A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.”
 - The worst thing someone can say about my life: “predictable”
- Seeing our own lives through a worldly lens



How is a Christian life described?

- The role of moderation in the Christian life
 - Acts 24:24-25 – “But as he was discussing **righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come**, Felix became frightened and said, ‘Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you.’”
 - 1 Thess 4:10-12- “But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, and to make it your ambition to **lead a quiet life** and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.”
 - “Quiet”, “temperate”, “sober”, “orderly” “so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.”, Titus 2:1-8



Do we live life with urgency?

- What is at stake in the decisions I make in my life?
 - 1 Peter 2:11 - Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
 - 2 Cor. 10:3 - For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.
 - 1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



Do we live life with urgency?

- How do we become complacent?
 - 1 Cor 9:24-27 – Living with purpose
 - How much effort to live making “no provisions for the flesh?” (Rom. 13:14)
- How “real” is my battle? Rom. 6:17-19
 - I have a real adversary, a real obstacle (Eph. 6:12-14)
- We can be confident, but not “comfortable” (1 Cor. 10:12)
 - Compare Phil. 3:7-14 (comp. v. 9, 12) to Rev. 3:17



Four keys to a life under control

- **Planning for success in my struggles**
 - Do I see who I want to be? What I'm willing to give up?
Heb. 12:1-2, Luke 14:28
 - Understanding that I won't succeed by accident! Luke 13:24
- **Seeing my body as a tool to be mastered**
 - Gal. 5:16-18 – am I training myself to deny myself?
 - God's grace can be a lure to accept failure in our struggles!
Rom. 6:1-14, 19-23
- **Running with intent, not aimlessly**
 - The perils of a life without structure, 2 Thes. 3:7-11, 1 Tim. 5:13
 - Occupying our minds as well as hands, Phil. 4:8
- **Building my faith in a greater outcome**
 - What do I need to believe? Heb. 11:6
 - Can I see signs of success along the way? 1 Cor 15:56-58



How do I see my life in Christ?

Am I a soldier seeking a recreational pass?
Or a soldier preparing for the next battle?

God has given us an
extraordinary life in Christ.
How will we choose to live it?