



2014 Men's Retreat

October 17-18, 2014

"This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away." - 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I. What is Ambition?

1. We all are hard-wired with ambition, with desires for glory.

a. Ambition – an eager or strong desire to achieve something.

"Ambition is not a bad thing. It's not always arrogant and prideful as many people assume. For sure, it can be. There are ugly versions of it. But there is also a type that is healthy and humble...we need to cultivate godly ambition..."¹

2. The appointed time is short, so recovering ambition matters!

II. The Cycle of Ambition – Portraits of Corrupted, Transformed and God-glorifying Ambition

1. Corrupted Ambition

- a. Ambition for distraction (Genesis 3)
- b. Ambition for that which is beyond us (2 Samuel 11).

2. Redeemed/Transformed Ambition

"To be rescued from something puts us on the path toward something."²

3. God-glorifying Ambition

- a. Ambitious for "moving the chains" of grace in our lives.
- b. Ambitious for service, not for self-glory.
- c. Ambitious to build that which brings glory to God!

*"I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." –
Matthew 16:18*

¹ Byron Yawn, *What Every Man Wishes His Father Had Told Him*, pg. 60

² Dave Harvey, *Rescuing Ambition*

"There is a great gulf between the Christianity that wrestles with whether to worship at the cost of imprisonment and death, and the Christianity that wrestles with whether kids should play soccer on Sunday mornings."³

"When church is not an ambition but only a place, the real ambitions of our lives inevitably crowd it out."⁴

1. Are there old dreams or dormant gifts that need awakened tonight?
2. Are there past failures or misplaced ambitions that have kept you in some kind of low-grade guilt and on the sidelines that you need set freed of tonight, like ambition paralysis?
3. Do you need a recovery of the joy of dreaming to do great things for God again; to be used in His kingdom again?
4. Has your drive gone dormant through a drift into apathy?
5. The time is short, what needs rekindled to get in the game of building God's church for his glory?

³ John Piper, quoted in *Rescuing Ambition*, pg. 163

⁴ Dave Harvey, pg. 163

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“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant[a] depart in peace, according to your word...” - Luke 2:25-29

I. Everyday Man Meets Extraordinary Savior

II. Plodding IS.....

1. Righteousness and Devotion
2. Devout = devoted

III. The Plodders Hope

IV. The Plodders Suffering

V. Plodders Are Not Alone

VI. The Plodders Joy

1. Plodding is not vain!

VII. Plodders End Well

Men – plod to your dying day! May our children see us plod to our death, for the glory of God.

By God's grace, and with his power working in and through us, as men, we can change the world. - Business For The Glory Of God by Grudem

I. Calling

1. We are all called to glorify God
2. Misconceptions
 - a. The misconceptions of ***"serving God"*** as it relates to calling.
 - b. The misconceptions of ***"serving the church"*** as it relates to calling.
3. The "Lesser" Calling

II. Creativity

1. We are made in God's Image (Gen 1:27)
2. The Value of Creativity
3. How To Think Creatively

III. Eternity

1. How we think about that day (and beyond) affects how we act on this day
2. We are instruments of Redemption & Restoration

IV. We Can Change the World

1. How do you define *"changing the world?"*
2. *"People who really want to make a difference in the world...aren't determined to revolutionize the world all at once; they're satisfied with small changes. Over time though, the small changes add up. Sometimes they even transform cities and nations, and yes, the world." - Beth Clark*
3. *"They don't do anything to call attention to themselves, they simply pay attention to the everyday needs of others...." - Beth Clark*

