

Monday, June 18 - Our souls have a God-given need for purpose and significance. When we over-think our careers, titles and achievements, we are grasping for purpose and significance. But a truly effective life begins with an effective soul. Our souls find themselves in God. As we do this, our lives will find purpose, place and value in God. **Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-9.** Verse 9 mentions “effective work.” Which means there is ineffective work, there is average work. What do you want to do? Useless, mediocre or unfulfilling work? Or a fulfilled soul and effective life?

Tuesday, June 19 – “**He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.**” **Psalm 1:3.** This is a person who trusts and follows God. This is not about how much money we will make, or what kind of a job we will have, or whether we will reach our ideal weight, or if people will ask for our autographs, or if we will have more toys than our neighbors when we die. He said that our souls and our lives will be stable, faithful, passionate, fruitful, healthy and blessed. Read Psalm 92: 12-14. How do we become righteous people who flourish and bear fruit? We trust in Jesus as our source of acceptance and righteousness before God.

Wednesday, June 20 – “**The righteous flourish like the palm tree..**” **Psalm 92:12.** Do you want a soul that flourishes? Why settle for money in the bank when you could flourish? Why hang your happiness on a six-figure salary or a corner office or a best-selling album when your soul could flourish? You can enjoy these types of things a lot more if you are thriving and healthy on the inside, not just the outside. “**They still bear fruit in old age; they are every full of sap and green.**” **Psalm 92:14.** No matter what your age, you can have passion and youthfulness; you can be influential and productive. An effective life cannot be quantified by how love we love, the balance of our bank account or our number of followers on social media. An effective life has to do with the position and condition of our soul. Are we effective, are we full, are we fruitful, and are we faithful?

Thursday, June 21 – **Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-9 again.** Notice Paul uses words that give the indication IF GOD WILLS. Words like: intend, perhaps, wherever, I hope and if the Lord permits. Basically Paul lived a surrendered life. This was the rhythm of his life. If God wills, then I will. An effective life is first and foremost a surrendered life. Paul yielded his schedule, his decisions, his destinations, and his directions to God. He did this because Jesus was real. When he encountered him on the Damascus road, it was life-altering. Paul’s attitude from that point forward was: “*Wherever you want me to go God; whoever you want me to talk to; whatever risk you want me to take; whatever prison they put me in; and whatever persecution I come under, I will do whatever you want me to do. I’m yours.*” What’s your attitude?

Friday, June 22 – **Read 1 Corinthians 16:9.** The last two days we have really looked at Paul’s surrendered life. Surrender is the safest place to live. If God is leading, then all the pressure is on Him. A surrender life is a beautiful life, but unless you are intentional about staying grounded, it can backfire. Verse 9 talks about a wide open door and then Paul wrote 12 concluding verse that focus on people in his life. **Read 1 Corinthians 16:10-24.** He praises, greets, encourages and connects. Paul isn’t just surrendered, he’s surrounded. Do you want an effective life? First, yield to God, your Creator and your Father. Turn over control of your ways and your days to him. And second, receive from the community that God puts around you. Read Psalm 68:6. We don’t do life alone.

