

Grace Unraveled
Living with the End in Mind
2 Corinthians 1:12-22

If we interact with people, we will at times be subject to criticism. We cannot please everyone in our spheres of influence. The workplace is often competitive. Our neighbors sometimes don't share our values. Our family members sometimes disappoint us. We must use discernment in how we handle these situations knowing that whether we speak or remain silent, our responses may generate critical reactions towards us.

1. Our _____ in this world matters
 - A. Our lives should reflect _____
 - B. Our lives should reflect _____
 - C. Our lives should reflect _____
2. Our _____ in this world matters
 - A. We must _____
 - B. We must _____
 - C. We must _____
3. Our _____ in this world matters
 - A. We are _____ by God
 - B. We are _____ by God
 - C. We are _____ by God

The gospel calls us to live lives of simplicity and integrity so that we can fulfill our calling as followers of Jesus to go and make disciples of the nations. The gospel reminds us that salvation is not only about us, but those around us who need to experience the love of Jesus and the salvation He offers through the cross. The message of the cross will only be credible when it comes from those whose lives have been impacted by it—those who live with the end in mind.

Reflection

Examine your relationships and the interaction that you have with the people around you. Are there actions and attitudes that you would find difficult to defend if confronted about them by the people in your spheres of influence? What is your reaction when fellow followers of Jesus point out things that may be hindering the work of the church or the advancement of the kingdom? Do you become hostile or repentant? What would it take for you to wake up tomorrow and say with Paul that your conscience is clear with regard to your testimony?