

Finishing Well Before You Start
Matthew 22:37-40 and Matthew 28:18-20

Greatest Commandment: Love God and Love Others. Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

Great Commission: As You Go, Make Disciples. Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

- **2023 will be a success if I am able to [Have a Proper Understanding of What is Meaningful and Meaningless.](#)**

📖 Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (NIV) *"The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teachers. "Utterly meaningless! Everything in meaningless."*

📖 Ecclesiastes 9:11 (NIV) *"I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them."*

📖 Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV) *"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."*

- **2023 will be a success if I am [Ready.](#)**

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📖 Ephesians 6:10 (NIV) *"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*









📖 2 Peter 1:5-8 (NIV) *"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

📖 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NIV) *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."*

How to Finish 2023 Well – Before You Even Start!

- **Great Commandment:** Love God and Love Others. Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)
 - **Great Commission:** As You Go, Make Disciples. Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)
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Application

1. **Am I Ready and Effective?** Stay Alert. Grow in your knowledge of the Lord. Go on the attack!
 *Ephesians 6:10 (NIV) “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”*
2. **Am I Pursuing Godliness?** For those us of working on getting in better shape over the new year, this is a good reminder!
 *1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV) “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”*
3. **Am I Salty?** Stay in the Word and stay in Prayer. Who are the people in your life you can build relationship bridges with to throw gospel seed?
 *Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV) “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.”*
4. **Am I Praying Continually?** Pray for those who you could reach with the gospel. People in your neighborhood? People at work? People at school?
 *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*
5. **Am I a Doer?** Break out of your comfort zone. Pursue a life as a balanced and growing Obedient Christian in Action!
 *James 1:22 (NIV) “Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourself. Do what it says.”*
6. **Am I Passing the Baton to my Children, my Community, my World?** Who are you discipling? Who are you investing in to grow in spiritual maturity? Who is discipling you? How are you reaching your own Jerusalem, Judea, and ends of the earth?
 *Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”*
 *Acts 1:8 (NIV) “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem , and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*
7. **Am I Bold?** Preach the gospel at all times – and **USE** words!
 *Ephesians 6:19-20 (NIV) “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”*