

Dear Discouraged - Part 8
"The Glory Road"

Pastor Randy Deal
March 29, 2009

Dear Discouraged - Part 8#

SHARPEN THE POINT
March 29, 2009

For further study of today's message

Review:

- Part 1: Remember God's amazing grace!
- Part 2: Dare to be different!
- Part 3: Remember who GOD says you are!
- Part 4: Our integrity will be tested by how we respond to temptation, authority, and suffering!
- Part 5: Have the courage to glorify God by giving up our rights to meet another's needs!
- Part 6: Pursue relational harmony instead of hostility!
- Part 7: Set apart Christ as Lord in our heart!

BIG IDEA:

Make Your Story About GOD'S Glory!

1 Peter 4 (NASB)

"...so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ," (v. 11b)

How? Arm yourselves...

1. RESIST anything that distracts you from living for THE WILL OF GOD!
(vv. 1-7)

- * Cease from sin. (v. 1)
- * Don't run with "Gentiles." (v. 4)
- * Be clear minded and self-controlled. (v. 7)

Our primary weapon here is prayer. (v. 7)

2. RESPOND with a fervent LOVE FOR OTHERS! (vv. 8-11a)

Our primary weapon here is love. (v. 8)

- * Share: Join a Home Group! (Front Porch begins April 19)
- * Be hospitable. (v. 9)
- * Serve: Live generously with your time, talent, treasure and testimony! (v. 10)

Peter understood...The Narrow Road vs. The Wide Road – Matthew 7:13-14

BENEDICTION (vv. 12-19, NLT)

ENTRY POINT: Solomon's search for the meaning of life led him to conclude that there are some things that will only make sense in eternity. To seek meaning through such things as wisdom, pleasure, success or power is futile! True meaning can be found only through our relationship with God. Begin by reading **The Book of Ecclesiastes**.

In what ways have I pursued the meaning for my life? What was the outcome? Is there meaning apart from God?

What relationships/activities/goals have I had to resist that did *nothing* to glorify God? Which ones do I still need to let go of or continue to seek His wisdom and will?

In Ecclesiastes 7:18 Solomon says "So try to walk a middle course..." Matthew 7:13-14 talks about the Narrow Gate through which we must walk in order to enter God's Kingdom. How do I know if I am on the Glory Road?

Solomon's conclusion about life's meaning appears in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

How would God judge the way I love others and how I use the spiritual gifts with which He has blessed me? In what ways am I *loving generously – on purpose –* with my time, talent and treasure?

*"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate.
The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide
for the many who choose the easy way.
But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow,
And only a few ever find it."
Matthew 7:13-14*