



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Staying On Mission (Isaiah 50:7-9)

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Corporations, government agencies, and highly motivated individuals develop mission statements to help them stay focused. These study notes address mission and encourage us to endure.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus is the primary example of keeping on mission and staying on focus (Luke 1:1-2). Jesus ministered to the multitudes in Jerusalem rather than compromising to opposition, even in the face of certain death. His mission of sacrifice through death on the cross paid our sin debt, keeping us from God's judgment (Revelation 20:11-12). The Apostle Paul was given the mission to proclaim Jesus' pardon to the people of other nations and their kings. Paul ran into great opposition from the religious establishment and many in Roman government. Many of Paul's friends urged him to alter his mission (Acts 21:10-14). As Paul faced martyrdom, he encouraged his friends to persevere. He listed over twenty obstacles they, and future readers, may face in perilous times (2 Timothy 3:1-13).

STAYING ON MISSION

Isaiah 50:7-9a Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me?¹

Isaiah encouraged his generation, prophesying of Jesus' suffering six centuries later. Consider how this teaching can help us stay focused on our mission.

How do you keep distractions from weakening your resolve or impacting your focus? Paul taught to avoid controversy, be patient when wronged, and when possible, gently correct those who are in opposition (2 Timothy 2:23-25). Where does your strength come from? Jesus quoted Scripture when attacked spiritually (Matthew 4:1-11). Paul was strengthened by friends (Acts 9:23-30). Paul also took help from law enforcement and the courts (Acts 21:31, 25:8-12).

WHAT IS YOUR MISSION IN LIFE?

Ecclesiastes 2:11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.²

Many consider King Solomon the richest and wisest man in history. Solomon reflected on his life accomplishments, expressing concern over what would endure beyond his generation, or have eternal value. He concluded, advising readers to revere God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Have you already seen some of your accomplishments vanish?

What are you pouring yourself into that will last beyond your lifetime?

How are you impacting the people in your life and those in the greater community during the brief time that God is granting you?

SUMMARY

Our work may be for a day or a time but our mission should be lasting! Solomon admonished us to focus on eternity. Only God's Word and souls of people endure for eternity (Matthew 24:35, Romans 8:23, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15). We each should clarify our personal mission, strive to stay focused, endure to the end, and finish well.

A PRAYER

Almighty God, here I am, striving in service where You have placed me. Help me to see beyond the hour, the day, and this current season of my life on earth. Clarify my mission, strengthen my resolve, and protect me from evil. I ask that you surround me with friends who will encourage me, even chide me when necessary. Mostly, Lord, keep me near to You during the testing times and the trials ahead. Help me to finish well. I ask this in the Name of Your Son. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica, Inc.) 1984.

² Ibid