

Don't waste your life

For some people life is made up of days that are jam-packed with tasks and activities.

From the time they get up in the morning until they go to sleep at night, their "To Do" list is crammed with the urgent and important.

For them life is about working hard to get a better paid job to buy a bigger house, a flashier car and secure an earlier retirement.

Having a family might also be an added bonus.

Then there are others, who live each day with not much to do at all.

Their life is a monotonous routine of visiting the shops, going to the local club or staying at home and watching a stack of DVDs.

When we look at what God says is a worthwhile life, a life busily pursuing perishable things is as tragic as a life with nothing to do and heading in no particular direction.

Australians today have greater freedom to choose how they will spend their lives and what they will spend it on, than any other time in history.

But how wise are our choices?

Are we choosing to pursue what God says is worthwhile and valuable over against what God has assessed is trivial, unimportant and of no lasting value.

There will be nothing worse than wasting your life doing nothing worthwhile or pursuing as your grand purpose something that God has dismissed as unimportant in his list of priorities.

So what does God say is the number one priority if we don't want to waste our lives?

A lawyer once asked Jesus what is God's number one requirement of us as his creatures.

Jesus' reply was: *to love God with all your heart soul, mind and strength.*

According to Jesus this is what life is really about: loving God passionately and supremely.

Life is to be lived enjoying the greatest relationship that any human can experience.

In another place, Jesus said: *and this is eternal life: that people know you, the only true God, and that they know Jesus Christ, the One you sent.*

The essential and excellent purpose of living is not for yourself, not even for others, but for knowing, enjoying and loving God.

When first things are first all other purposes can take the right order of priority.

A disciple of Jesus, Peter, wrote a letter to encourage people who were following Jesus but experiencing tough times and hostility from others.

He reminded of the sort of life that Jesus delivered them from.

He wrote:

You know that in the past you were living in a worthless way, a way passed down from the people who lived before you. But you were saved from that useless life.

Jesus' purpose is to rescue people from the tragedy of a useless and wasted life.

If you come and follow him he will make sure you don't waste your life.