

CLUTTER

WEEK 4
ETERNAL THINGS

Message Notes

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When our lives are cluttered we fail to make our greatest contribution.

Our lives get cluttered because we are caring too much about the wrong things.

“Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and **choked out** the tender plants.” *Matthew 13:7*

“The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the **worries of this life** and the **lure of wealth**, so no fruit is produced.” *Matthew 13:22*

Demas has deserted me because he loves the **things of this life** and has gone to Thessalonica. *2 Timothy 4:10*

Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. *James 1:14-15*

1. You must keep an eternal perspective.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is **temporary**, but what is unseen is **eternal**. *2 Corinthians 4:18*

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on **earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in **heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your **treasure** is, there your heart will be also.” *Matthew 6:19-21*

What is your treasure?

2. Eliminate the worldly concerns that are cluttering your soul.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us **strip off** every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily **trips us up**. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. *Hebrews 12:1*

What is tripping you up?

If you want to make your highest contribution, you must de-clutter your life.

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your **good works** and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:16*

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY John 1:29-51	MONDAY John 2:1-25	TUESDAY John 3:1-21
this week	may 1	may 2	may 3
WEDNESDAY John 3:22-4:3	THURSDAY John 4:4-42	FRIDAY John 4:43-54	SATURDAY John 5:1-23
may 4	may 5	may 6	may 7
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE 2 Corinthians 4:18			

CLUTTER



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR CHECK-IN

TIME WITH GOD - What are you applying that you are getting from your daily time with God?

MEMORY/MEDITATION VERSE - State it.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR - Who was accountable for you? Did they care for you by helping you achieve your action step(s) this past week?

Introduction

Our lives sometimes get cluttered because we care too much about the wrong things. Our desires for wealth, comfort, safety, pleasure, and recognition often pull us away or distract us from the good works God has planned. It's difficult to make our greatest contribution when the gospel seeds that are planted in our lives get choked out and never grow because we are focused on things that weigh us down and trip us up.

Discussion Questions

1. Looking back at the concepts for de-cluttering your life, what made the most impact on you? Why? How is your life different as a result of this sermon series?

2. Read Matthew 13:1-8 & 23. Jesus referred to the "worries of this life" as thorns that crowd out the truth. What is on your mind the most? What consumes you?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:18. What are some things in your life that are temporary? What are the things that are eternal?

Small Group Questions Continued

Using the space provided, list some practical ways to keep an eternal focus. Share your practical ideas with the group.

3. Read Matthew 6:19-21. In your own words, summarize what Jesus is saying in this passage. How can you truly know where your real treasure lies? What are the factors in your life that point to it?

4. De-cluttering means getting rid of some things. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What is the "weight" or "worldly concern" that trips you up and keeps you from making your greatest contribution?

What steps will you take this week to adjust your focus to eternal things and to lay down the things that keep you from the good works God has planned for you?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:
