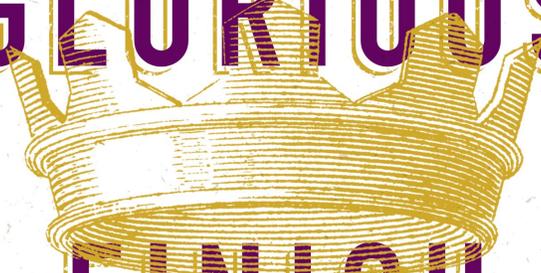
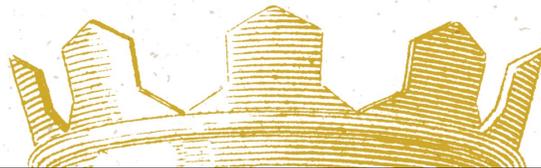




KEEPING YOUR EYE
ON THE PRIZE OF ETERNITY
IN A TIME OF PASTORAL FAILINGS

GLORIOUS

FINISH

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Questions for Personal and Team Application

Preface and Introduction

1. What was your immediate and honest answer to the inquiry, “I am called to _____?” After reading the preface, how do you feel about that answer?
2. Study the summary diagram on page 15. For each of the descriptions in the left-hand column, how would you rate the clarity and conviction of your pursuit of these commitments.
 - 1 = I seem to lack clarity and conviction
 - 2 = I feel some clarity and conviction
 - 3 = I am doing OK but not consistently focused
 - 4 = I am consistently pursuing clarity and conviction
 - 5 = I am definitely in a lifestyle of clarity and conviction
3. Revisiting the diagram on page 15, examine the right-hand column. Which of these might be a current threat to your own “glorious finish”? Why this one? How do you hope to do counteract this negative tendency?
4. Describe a moment when you felt you beheld the glory of Jesus in a particularly difficult moment of life or ministry. What truth captured your heart and what difference did it make?
5. Review the section on “Security and Significance” (pages 25-26). Do you have a clearly defined biblical identity statement? If so, what is it? How will this affirmation help you navigate moments of insecurity?

Chapter 1 – A Starting Point Named Desire

1. Write out in a sentence or two about the aspirations that motivated you to pursue ministry? Have your motives changed in any way over the years? If so how?
2. After reading this chapter, what specific scriptures do you feel you need to affirm/reaffirm to guide your motives for continuing in ministry?

Chapter 2 – Glorious Encounters of a Transforming Kind

1. As you review the encounters of Peter, John, and Paul how do you believe these moments affected their teaching and leadership? Can you share any particular verses from their letters that stand out as the fruit of their passion for the glory of Jesus Christ?
2. How is your present ministry notably focused on the glory of Jesus Christ? How is this evident to the people you lead in what you do and say?

Chapter 3 – Worship vs Neglect

1. Describe the current rhythms of personal worship you are seeking to maintain consistently? What elements seem most life-giving to you and why?
2. What factors in your regular schedule tend to engender spiritual neglect? How can you address these and who can support you in this effort?
3. Do you have clear written ministry priorities? If so what are they? Where do you keep these and how often to you review them? Who else is aware of these priorities in order to support your highest commitments?

Chapter 4 – Humility vs. Self-Reliance

1. Describe a time or times when it was clear that God was at work to humble you. How did you respond and what lasting lesson has stayed with you?
2. In the normal rhythms of your life, where and how does self-reliance tend to show up? How can you embrace a clearer recognition and biblical response to this temptation?
3. Review the section on pages 80-82 on the humility of Jesus. How would a clearer vision of His humility affect your relationships? Your reactions? Your response to difficult circumstances?

Chapter 5 – Authenticity vs. Professionalism

1. Study the chart on page 90. Highlight three in each column that you feel best describe your ministry focus? Be prepared to discuss why you selected each and determine how you can overcome those you highlighted in the left-hand column.
2. Study the fruits of authentic ministry described on pages 95-98. Which of these do feel needs to be strengthened in your own life and ministry? How do you hope to address this?
3. React to the quote by Bonhoeffer on page 99. Do you agree or disagree with his sentiment? Why or why not?

Chapter 6 – Accountability vs. Entitlement

1. Based on this chapter, how would you define entitlement? Why, in your opinion, is it dangerous?
2. What are the most common symptoms of entitlement in today's ministry context? In your personal ministry journey?
3. Who in your life functions as a helpful and accurate mirror of accountability in each of the following roles (see top of page 113) and how often and honestly do you interact with them...
 - A mentor?
 - An ally?
 - A confidant?
 - A protégé?

If you lack accountability in any of these relationships, what will you do to pursue this kind of connection?

Chapter 7 – Integrity vs. Compartmentalization

1. As you consider the important component of “integration,” what does it look like in your life? What aspects of your life and ministry need to be more authentically integrated to avoid compartmentalization?
2. Consider the descriptions of integrity from Psalm 15 (pages 122-126). Which specific qualities seem to need the most attention in your life right now? Who will you be accountable to for this?
3. As you review Vance Pitman’s practical guidelines for protecting integrity on pages 128-129, which ones are a regular practice for you? What would it take to integrate any neglected commitments on the list? Do you have any additional guidelines of your own you would like to share?

Chapter 8 – Joyful Hope vs. Dangerous Dissatisfaction

1. How and when have you felt that you experienced supernatural joy in the midst of suffering? What commitments seemed to undergird that sense of joy? How have you used that experience to encourage others?
2. Consider Jim Cymbala’s counsel on page 136. Which of his points are most relevant to you right now and why?
3. How have you sensed dissatisfaction in the ministry in recent months or years? What was the cause of this? How would a fresh consideration of the model of Jesus (see pages 138-142) help you keep perspective?

Chapter 9 – Glorious Finish vs. Dishonorable Discharge

1. What qualities in your life right now serve as unquestioned indicators that you are running to win? (See pages 149-153). What can you do to practically strengthen your resolve?
2. In your view, what principles and processes need to be considered in the restoration of a disqualified leader to an official position in the church? (See

pages 154-156) What points on these pages would you agree with? Disagree with? Why?

3. This chapter begins and ends with Skye Jethani's story of Bill, the former pastor? What heart-felt response did you experience as you considered this conversation? What lesson seems paramount for your ministry journey?

Chapter 10 – Eyes Fixed on the Scoreboard

1. As you the realities of the eternal scoreboard (pages 164-168), what most compels you to fix your heart on the eternal evaluation of your life and ministry? Why this aspect?
2. Pages 172-173 offer a perspective on our experience in eternity of differing rewards. What about this compels you to focus your ministry efforts more clearly on the reward of heaven?
3. Review pages 174-175. Affirming that all that you do is preparations for eternity, how might this affect your weekly ministry focus? In what specific situations do you most commonly need to be reminded of these truths?

Chapter 11 – The Glory of the Scorekeeper

1. How do the truths of this chapter move your heart to fixate on the unimaginable joy of participating in God's eternal glory in Christ?
2. As you look at recent weeks of life a ministry, when did you most need to be reminded of the worthiness of Christ? How can you adjust your focus toward that compelling truth more effectively in the future?
3. Consider your family (wife, children, other relatives) and those you lead in your ministry. How specifically can you help them to grow their hearts and clarify their vision toward the wonder and glory of Jesus Christ?

Chapter 12 – The Crowns of a Heaven-Bound Leader

1. In your view, should crowns serve as a significant motivation for your life of faithful service? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. In consideration the crowns described in the New Testament, which one is particularly encouraging to you right now? Why?
3. How does the imperishable nature of these crowns give you renewed perspective to endure temporal challenges? Which specific present difficulties seem especially insignificant in light of your imperishable crowns?

Epilogue and Appendix

1. After reading the story of Billie Kay Bothwell, what would your “last week of life” include? Why these particular elements?
2. How specifically will you find it helpful to keep the Glorious Finish summary (Appendix) in the forefront of your mind in the coming days? Will you keep this in a space for regular review? If so, where and why?