

The Christian Life in Biblical Perspective  
7 Essentials Of the Christian Life  
The Essential Life Trust Of The Effective Christian Life  
1 Corinthians 4:1-5  
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October 25, 2009 – Morning Sermon

Our text for this study is in 1 Corinthians 4. I look forward to being with you tonight. Everybody who wants to know what's going to happen from now until Jesus comes come tonight and those who don't want to know then don't come. We are in Daniel 2 in our study tonight which will cover an amazing dream given to a pagan king in which God gives to this pagan king the scope of history and it's implications for the lives of His people. It's an extraordinary text of Scripture. I look forward in finishing up the Lord's Day with you in praise to God. Next Lord's Day is reformation Sunday. If you have your kilts you may wear them next Sunday, well even if you have them I prefer you not wear them to tell you the truth. It will be a wonderful celebration. It will be special this year because we are commemorating Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday and I understand that he may actually come that Sunday night to talk to you (smile).

Now let's look at 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; *1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.* The grass withers and the flower fades. The Word of our God abides forever. By His grace and mercy may it be preached for you.

We are in our next to last study on the seven essentials of the effective Christian life. In this study I thought I would begin by sharing a wonderful blessing that I enjoyed as a pastor. That particular day did not start out as a blessing but with a phone call that startled me. I was in my study and the phone call came. The person on the phone told me that one of the members of our church had just come home and his house had been burned and that it looked like the work of an arsonist. In fact it was still burning when I got the call. So I jumped in the car and went over there. I embraced him and his wife, called upon the Lord in prayer and just stood as it burned down. Then an interesting thing happened. I looked at the man and he was smiling. I was rather startled by the smile. I said, "What are you smiling about when it's all in flames still burning?" He said, "I was just wondering why God would allow His house to get burned." Did you hear what I said? The man said he wondered why God would allow His house to get burned and not my house.

A pastor came to me one time and said, "Harry, one of the greatest challenges is to get Christians, in the name of Christ, to exercise ownership in life." I know what he meant by that. When we own something we are a lot more responsible. I mean, how many of you have ever washed a rental car before you took it back? There are usually at least three neurotic people in a crowd this size. We don't do that at all. We'll wash our

own car. So I know what he meant but actually the greatest challenge for the Christian, as a pastor that I sense, is for me to recognize that God is the owner of everything that I have and I am His ordained manager. I am His ordained steward. He has called me to dispense the things, the relationships, and all of the resources that He has entrusted to me in my life. It is not ownership but it is stewardship. It is a sacred trust that God has given.

In other words, you have heard of the word foundation where non-profits go to foundations to gain funds. If you're a Christian today you have a sacred trust and have been appointed the director of a life trust that is a sacred foundation designed for Kingdom resourcing. God has appointed this to you. You are the director, the executive officer, the chief officer, you are CEO, CFO, COO, you're everything. Now, we don't all have the same size foundation. We don't all have the same trust but every one of us have the same position that God has entrusted to us.

There are some challenges as a pastor that are just so overwhelming and I sense my inadequacies so often but there are sometimes that are just extraordinary blessings. Such as, a 40 year old man who lost his 39 year old wife who had four girls to raise and then said, "I cannot believe that God allowed me to have this woman for 22 years." If that were me I know what I would have been doing. This man was grieving, he knew what lay ahead of him and he would greatly miss her in the midst of the great challenge ahead of raising those children but he saw life in stewardship that God had granted to him this marvelous wife. I see it when I come to young couples in our church that are holding that child whether it came biologically through a birth or through adoption, where they sense the awesomeness and the privilege that God has entrusted this life to them. They don't own this child. God owns this child but God has entrusted this child, my home, my marriage, my job, my calling, my gifts, my abilities, all my days and all my hours.

When God called me to Himself, I came to Christ and then within a year and a half after that He made clear to me that He was calling me into the ministry. I actually surrendered to the call of the ministry at about 1 o'clock in the morning kneeling in a tobacco farm. Then I thought where am I going to go to get trained? East Carolina was not going to turn me out to be a minister for the Gospel so I started visiting Christian colleges. I will never forget that January day I drove to Lookout Mountain, Tennessee and went to our denominational college, Covenant College. I met with professors and other people and then I went to Chapel and heard the student body sing the hymn, *All For Jesus* in which it said, "All for Jesus, all my days, all my hours, all my thoughts, all my doings, worldly prize their gilded toys of dust but only Jesus will I trust. Since He has given me eyes to see, now I see only Him the crucified." When I heard that sung I knew I needed to be there. I said, "Lord, put me here even if it's somewhere else that is what I need." How can I live my life all for Jesus when Jesus has given me all my life?

Paul gives us a little bit of an example of that and he does this in 1 Corinthians 4. We are in our sixth essential of our seven essentials of the effective Christian Life and I would like to rehearse the first five very quickly. The first essential is what we called the essential of Life Purpose. A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to play golf at this really nice golf course and it just so happened that I was in one of the first groups to tee off and that meant that everybody participating in the tournament was there watching. My game wasn't ready for that. I remember standing on that tee with two thoughts in my mind. One thought was 'Oh dear Lord please don't let me totally embarrass myself in

front of these people.’ Thought number two was ‘Oh dear Lord I would like to desperately be able to find this golf ball after I hit it.’ If Tiger Woods had been there and in fact he had played that golf course, but I didn’t pay for my time however he would have not had the same thoughts I had. He wasn’t even on the tee. He was thinking he was on the green and he would birdie that hole. I began from the beginning fearfully but he began from the end confidently. You start from the end and say, “Where is my destination? What’s my purpose?” To birdie that hole I need to be on the green. To be on the green I need to be on the fairway so now I’m ready to hit my drive. That’s the way Tiger Woods thought and that’s the way I want you to think about life, your life purpose. Life for the Christian is worship to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. So how can I do that?

That is when we went to the second essentials about the two life lines which are the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The Word of God brings you to Christ, feeds you, directs you and nourishes you through reading, teaching, preaching, studying, memorizing and meditating and the Spirit of God empowers you, enlightens you, moves you, convicts you, consoles you and encourages you. It is the Spirit of God and the Word of God that are your two lifelines. Wherever there is that life purpose to glorify God and enjoy Him forever with life worship and wherever there are those two lifelines there will always be two life marks.

The two life marks are the third essential and they are Truth and love. It is that we embrace Truth and do love. We obey Truth and do love. What do Christians do? They do love. They love the Lord with all their heart, soul and mind. They love their neighbor as they love themselves. They love one another, the lost, His Word, His church and they love sacrificially. They do Truth. They not only do love but they embrace Truth as a way of life. So you have a life purpose, you have life lines, and you have life marks that will lead to a life style.

The fourth essential is a lifestyle of putting off the old man and putting on the new so that we are constantly growing not for grace but we’re growing in the knowledge and grace of Christ where repentance and grace is a way of life. By faith we obey and with repentance we turn from our self and sin to follow Jesus Christ trusting in Him, living in Him and for Him. This leads us to essential number five which was our last study.

Essential number five is life formation which is the gracious gift of one word, Wisdom. People who have knowledge you know have all the answers. People who have wisdom you know will ask the right questions. This is wisdom from above. Knowledge is horizontal. Wisdom is vertical. The wisdom from the earth destroys. The wisdom from the world brings death, chaos and destruction. It brings bitterness and all kinds of envy and jealousy but the wisdom from above is peaceable and gives a harvest of Godliness. That’s the wisdom we need to guide us in our life so that is our life formation which is the wisdom from above that comes to us.

Now I want to go to a sixth essential and I’m calling it a life trust. It is that my life is a sacred trust from God and I am a steward over it. God has put me over my life as a steward. This idea of stewardship I would like to draw from what Paul says in our text for this study in 1 Corinthians 4 about his life. I want to pull out a couple of thoughts from this text. First of all Paul is saying in this text that “when you see me along with these other people that have been called leading you, I want you to see two things.” First

of all I am a servant of Christ. This is seen in 1 Corinthians 4:1 which says, “*This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ...*”

Secondly, I am a steward. 1 Corinthians 4:1b says “*...and stewards of the mysteries of God.*” I am a servant. The word that is usually used for *servant* in the original language is *diakonos*. We actually get the word deacon or servant from that word but that is not the word that is used there. The original word used here is *huperetes* which is an interesting word. It comes from a noun that is used to describe an under-rower. A galley ship has three levels of rowers. There is the first level slave, a second level slave and a third level slave. If I have to spend all day rowing what level would I want to row in, first, second or third level? Let me just say, that whatever is on the first level goes down to the second level and whatever is on the second level goes down to the third level. I know where I would want to be and that would be the first level. *Huperetes* was the word that described the slave that was on the third level. So Paul says, “I’m an under-rower. I’m down at the third level with my oar in the water for Jesus Christ.” No self-exaltation because I’m a servant. I am a servant of the Lord.

Then he says I’m a steward. The Latin translation of steward is called a dispensinator. I know that’s not a word for us but it is a word in Latin. We are dispensinators. In other words I have a trust from God and God has appointed me as the dispensinator. I am the steward. I am the *oiknomeo* in the Greek who is now responsible to look over that which has been entrusted and I am to give it away. I am to use it for the One who owns it and He has given it to me and put me over it. I am a dispensinator.

Let’s go to a third thing from the text. Paul then takes ‘I am a servant’ and ‘a steward’ and he takes steward, pulls it out and says, “Let’s focus right here.” What is the one word you need to have to describe a good steward? It is trustworthy. That’s why we call them trustees. A good steward is trustworthy. There is another translation and this is what our deacons have been using as we move into the every member commitment season. A steward is faithful. They want us to go into this season thinking of responding to the Lord faithfully. A steward is trustworthy and faithful. Don’t stop there. What else does he teach us about a steward? Let’s take the word steward out. A steward above all else wants to be faithful. To be faithful a steward has to be accountable. A steward has to give an account so Paul says, “I’m accountable in my stewardship, meaning where I’m dispensing it.” Then he says, “But let me tell you who I am not accountable to. I’m not accountable to you.”

Paul is not being arrogant here. He’s not saying, “I don’t care what you think.” He is saying “That sacred trust that has been given to me, that appointment by God where I’m a steward and a dispensinator of that trust, I have to answer for that and that person is not you. I don’t answer to a human court, I answer to the Lord and by the way, right now I’m not answering. I will answer at the right time.” When will Paul answer for his stewardship, for his dispensing of this sacred trust? 1 Corinthians 4:4, 5 says, **4** *For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.* **5** *Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.* On that day He’ll not only bring to light what I did with His resources He entrusted to me, He will also bring to light my motives in how I dispensed that trust.

So do believers appear before the judgment seat of the Lord? Absolutely they will, but not for salvation. Jesus has already appeared there for you. He's paid the penalty for all your sins and He has provided for your righteousness. But when Jesus comes back we do have an appointment before the Lord. When we stand before the Lord God will have given us numerous resources and He has called us to be trustworthy. In that day what is it that we are looking for? The last sentence in 1 Corinthians 4:5 says, "*Then each one will receive his commendation from God.*" So what is it that you want to hear from the Lord on that day? "Well done, good and faithful (trustworthy) servant." Do you see how that all comes together? When Christ comes back I give an account. My heart is exposed. My purposes are exposed. What is there? I will not have been perfect. I am a sinner saved by grace but what I want to hear in that day is commendation – well done. I didn't take the talents and bury them. I didn't abuse them. I didn't misuse them. I didn't neglect to use them but I invested all of them faithfully, all for Jesus and I have now a testimony of how Jesus used what He gave to me.

I want to give you seven areas of stewardship. By the way, in the spirit of this text you don't have to answer to me. In fact your answer is when Jesus comes. It will be your answer for what you have done with what God has given to you but you do have an opportunity before the Lord to consider what it means to be a trustworthy steward, anticipating that day of accountability. What does it mean to be a good steward that's trustworthy, looking to the day of accountability and commendations? There are seven areas in response to that question.

The first area is that I have developed and used my God given physical and mental assets. To be a trustworthy steward I have developed a faithful investment of my physical and mental assets. Remember, there is no equality in this thing. Everything we have comes from the Lord. It's all for the Lord and we've all been appointed as the director over the life trust that God has given to us and nothing is equal. I will never forget when I was at Pinelands Presbyterian Church pastoring that congregation and there were no children because we mainly had older people as members. About my third or fourth Sunday in comes this young couple. They stood out in this crowd not only because they were young but he was 6 foot 5 inches tall. He had this tiny waist but these huge broad shoulders with a wonderful Puerto Rican lady. His name was Ted. He used to play football for the Dallas Cowboys. He was impressive. I went up to him and shook his hand and lost my hand somewhere in the grip. I'll never forget how unbelievable this body was that God had given to him.

I have met people that are so smart and I've been amazed at how smart they are. They have an unbelievable intelligence that they enjoy. It's just beyond anything fathomable for me but I'm not going to be paralyzed by my comparisons to them. If God has given me five drums then I want to beat my five drums. I don't want to stop beating my drums because somebody else has ten. I just want to beat my drums. Every single one of us has been given a physical body. Some of us have been designed different ways. Some of us have been designed in a way that the world says is cast off but God doesn't. God has designed every single one of us. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies have been entrusted to us that we might use them for His glory. That's why Paul said "I buffet (not a buffet where food is served) my body to make it my slave" (1 Corinthians 9:27). Why? Paul says, "I've got a ministry and I'm going to use my body."

Robert Murray McShane when he died at age 29, his one regret on his deathbed was “God gave me a body to carry to the end but I rode it to death before I was 29.” Do you remember when Jesus was praying with the disciples? What did the disciples keep doing? Jesus would go away to pray for an hour and the disciples kept falling asleep. Then Jesus said, “The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41). Jesus was telling them that they were not used to this and they weren’t ready for it. So there is a call for us to invest faithfully in our physical and mental state. Jesus grew in wisdom. We are to grow consciously and intentionally. We are to be good developers and dispensers of the physical and mental assets that God has given to us.

The second area is that we are to faithfully develop and use our spiritual gifts and our natural talents. I will enlarge on this in another study but I will mention some things now. We have natural talents. Some of you have an amazing ability to work with your hands. Some have amazing abilities for music. Do you know what a violin would sound like in my hands? These musical talents just so overwhelm me. Now the natural talent of a singing gift is not a spiritual gift but a natural talent. Your gift will determine how you use it. For instance, George Beverly Shay can sing baritone. He still sings and he is in his 90s. His gift is evangelism so he uses his singing to evangelize. My favorite singer is Michael Card. He has an unbelievable gift musically but his spiritual gift is teaching. He has an incredible CD on the book of Lamentations, his CD on the birth of Christ called Joy Cometh and he takes a passage of Scripture and keeps developing it and developing it. What would be points in a sermon for me become songs for him as he develops it.

This coming year we are having the Getty’s to come to Briarwood for a concert. Keith and his wife have a great gift musically and their spiritual gift is worship. They lead us in worship and praise to God. Every one of us has natural talents and spiritual gifts. Use them. Develop them. Paul said to Timothy, “Stir up the gift that is within you.” Improve upon that gift. Grow it in the Lord.

The third area is there needs to be a faithful use and harvesting of my God given life experiences. Failures, adversity, challenges, successes, triumphs, victories are life experiences. Life experiences have been designed by a sovereign God to work in your life. James 1:2-4 says, *2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* Romans 5:3-5 says, *3 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.* When difficulties happen in our life don’t go die in a pile. God just rang the school bell. It’s time to learn. When victories come God is saying something to us.

One of my favorite stories comes from Noel Tichy’s book titled In Search of Excellence. It is when he records the time about one of the Vice President’s in GE under Jack Welch’s CEO leadership who was given a project. He put the project together, long story short, it plummeted and it cost the company 1.2 million dollars. On the following Monday he walked in and handed his letter of resignation to Jack. Jack looked at it, tore it up and said, “Come back here tomorrow, bring another piece of paper and on that piece of paper I want you to write out every single thing you learned in this failure. Don’t come back in here with another letter of resignation. I have 1.2 million dollars invested

in your education right now. What did you learn?" When things come into your life, harvest what God's teaching you, and what He's affirming. Don't let it pass by. God's teaching you things about the Gospel. God is giving you something to bring to worship. God is giving you something to learn from and draw upon to comfort others with the comfort that you are comforted with that you will be able to use in ministry. Take advantage of those moments and harvest it out.

Here is an example of what one fellow does. He got himself a little journal and he started writing. When things happen what is God teaching me? Thomas J. Jackson was a Major and later became Stonewall Jackson in the Civil War but when he lost his first wife Ellie it just overwhelmed him in grief. Then he sat down with Romans 8:28 which says, "*We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*" Then he began a six month time of meditation in which he began to write out "Good things that the Lord has taught me and the home going of my dear Ellie." He didn't let that moment go by. He harvested it. Be a good steward of God given life experiences of victories, challenges and defeats.

The fourth area is to be a good steward, be faithful, nurture and develop your life roles, life responsibilities and life relationships. Embrace your life roles, responsibilities and your relationships. One guy said, "Live life from the fence post." Harry, what do you mean by that? If you are walking through a field and you see a turtle on top of a fence post, what do you know? You know that somebody has been there because that turtle did not get up on that fence post by itself. You are living your life on a fence post. You didn't get there by yourself. There is a husband, a wife, a dad, and a mom. There are some friends, some mentors. Are you nurturing with gratitude what they did to put you on that fence post? Are you nurturing and developing your life relationships and are you putting other people up on the fence post? Who are you putting up on a fence post?

I loved watching Michael Jordon play basketball because I think he is the greatest basketball player that ever lived, in my humble opinion, but I also loved the fact that every time he shot a basket and made it he would point to the person who passed him the ball. He would point away from himself not pat himself on the chest. He wouldn't beat on his chest like many do. He didn't glare but he pointed to the one who passed him the ball. His college basketball coach Dean Smith taught him to do that at the University of North Carolina. I think Dean Smith is the greatest defensive basketball player that has ever lived and he didn't even put on a uniform to do that. Do you know why? It is because he held Michael Jordan to 20 points a game. How did he do that? He told him not to score more than 20 points and if he did he wouldn't start. Then he told him that it wasn't how many points he was scoring but it is how many points this team scores. So I not only want you to point to people who pass you the ball when you score but I want you to pass the ball so other people can score.

Are you and I nurturing our life roles and relationships? Are you ready to pass the ball to your children, pass the ball to your grandchildren, and pass the ball to one another? Are we parasites in the church of Jesus Christ in our family, just feeding off what people are willing and giving to us? Or are we who have been put up on a fence post saying to people "Thank you for what the Lord did through you in my life"? By the way, I'm going to find some people and put them up on a fence post. I want to be God's instrument in life roles, responsibilities, and relationships.

The fifth area is to have faithful use and investment of the one irreplaceable resource that you have and that is time. Time is a resource that God has given you that is irreplaceable. I don't even like to talk about time management. Have you ever watched the 60 seconds to a minute or 60 minutes to the hour, seven days a week? It just keeps going and going and going. I don't need to manage it but it's a resource that has been given to me so how do you spend it? When you spend 10 dollars you get 10 dollars back but spend a day and it's gone. I was born into this world with a finite number of days, finite number of sunrises and sunsets. How do I invest that time that God has allotted to me? What am I doing with it?

Have you ever heard Bill Bright's statement, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life"? There's a flip side. Satan hates you and he has a disastrous plan for your life. If your life plan is not governed by Jesus Christ then Satan will rob you of that precious commodity of time. You will see it wasted in front of televisions, addictive behavior, technology and those things are not evil in and of themselves but do these things control me or does Jesus Christ control me and is my time invested wisely wherever it is? The Bible says, "Redeem the time for the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).

The sixth area is a faithful use and investment through worship and giving of my material and financial resources and then watching God multiply them. It begins with His tithe. You can't be faithful as a steward if you are robbing God. The tithe belongs to the Lord. I want to start with my tithes. I want to move into offerings. Then there are other material resources, such as your home, a car, this and that. Lord, how can I use these resources in worship and in giving that You would multiply them and use them for Your glory? I want to embrace that.

Here's a Biblical example of this. There was a little boy one day who showed up with some fish and some loaves. Do you remember that story? There were about 5,000 people that needed to be fed. Let's feed the 5,000 so what do we have? Here's my fish and loaves. Then what happened? It was multiplied. Everyone was fed and they even had food left over. What do you think happened when that boy went home that day? Do you think he said, "Mom do you believe that they just took my fish and loaves?" I think he might have said something like, "Mother you would not believe what happened to that fish and loaves you gave me! Over 5,000 people were fed from the fish and loaves I had." They were all for Jesus. There is unbelievable excitement when God multiplies. There are so many stories that could be told here. I'll find a way to share some more at a later time.

The seventh area is faithful use and dispensing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that has been entrusted to us. First of all I want to use that Gospel in my own life. Every time shame, guilt or fear comes I want to say, "Jesus thank You I'm forgiven." My guilt has been taken away because I have confessed my sins. "Jesus, thank You that perfect love from the cross, casts out all fear." The Gospel dispels fear, shame and guilt because of Christ who forgives me, clothes me in His righteousness and who loves me. I not only want to be a good steward of the Gospel in my life but I want to be a good steward of the Gospel by giving it away to other people. I want to give it away to believers to encourage them. I want to give it away to lost people so that they can be saved. I want to fulfill the Great Commission that has been entrusted to me. The Word of God has been given to me. The Spirit of God is within and the Gospel is at work in me. Christ is the center and vision of my life. Now, I want to take that Gospel and be a good steward of it



in my life. I grow in grace and give it away so that others may come to the Lord of grace and mercy, Jesus Christ.

So what is my takeaway? I just have one. God, with the wisdom You give me, with my eyes fixed on Jesus, saturated with the Word of God, empower with the Spirit of God, Lord, help me to learn to do the right things in life. That is the principle of effectiveness. Most of us work on efficiency which is how many things can I do in life. I like this illustration. I can be the fastest, most efficient ladder climber in the world but if I don't get the ladder against the right wall it won't do me any good. I want to learn to do the right things in life first. Then I want to learn to do the right things in the right time which is the principle of efficiency. Then I want to learn to do the right things in the right time in the right way because I want to hear Jesus say, "Well done" which is the principle of excellence. Then I want to do the right things, in the right time, in the right way for the right reasons so that Christ is lifted up and people know the love of Christ through me. That is the principle of exaltation. I want to exalt the Lord.

God, would you put me on this path of stewardship? Make me faithful as I anticipate accountability now take with great anticipation the joy of all that You have given to me to give away into the lives of others. God, make me a joyful dispenser of all of these elements of my life and all of these things that You have entrusted to me. I don't want to go through life with people looking at the way I live my life and say, "My goodness what a genius!" I don't want to live my life under the eye of men for their applause. I want to live my life under the eye of God and that He would say, "You've been faithful, trustworthy. From the cross I bought you, from the cross I entrusted these things to you and you were faithful. Now enter into your rest."

In closing, I would never make a good money manager. I have met some of the men and women in this church that are money managers and that is not my skill. If I did have that skill my greatest moment would be when someone's investment was used and they saw the return. My favorite moment would be seeing their smile. That would be my favorite moment as a Christian. I want to stand before my Savior and I want Him to smile and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." All for Jesus! Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time that we could be together in worship and study and prayer and praise. Thank You for the privilege to have a life trust. God, would You speak to our hearts now? Dear friend, you may be reading this and you don't yet have a life trust because your first step is to trust your life to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Would you do that now? I invite you to Christ. I'm not inviting you to church membership and not even to an altar. I invite you to the One who can save you and He is ready to receive you. Just come to Him today and say, "Jesus I'm a sinner. I put my trust in You." Would you join me in calling upon the Lord that Jesus who is our all, now we live all for Jesus. God, thank You for these men and women. Thank You for the privilege to serve You with them. Thank You for what You are doing in their lives. Now, God make our life a foundation, a trust that we dispense in praise and gratefulness and faithfulness for You, in Jesus' Name, Amen.