

What will you do at the crossroads?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **all of us stand at a crossroads, everyday**
 - **go to the right or left, go a way that will help or hurt us**, go a direction that will be more or less beneficial in our service to God
 - **1 Cor 9:26-27 illus.: Paul knew he could take a wrong turn at any time**, always alert and on guard, less he be lost
- **this lesson:**
 - **prepare for lesson tonight (conversational evangelism), challenge** to put more emphasis on your service to God as it relates to reaching others with the gospel — choice, lifestyle
 - **prepare us to examine our lives in view of the start of a new year**, a couple of weeks from now
 - **challenge you see the crossroads in your life**, examine yourself, make sure choosing the right path

➤ What will you be thinking about, as you lie on your deathbed?

-“All I care about is my relationship with God - not money or possessions or social status!”

- **illus.: David**

- **1 Ki. 1:1-4; 2:1-4 king, elderly with failing body, concerned about spiritual things** and the kingdom, not concerned about material wealth (palaces, money, worldly luxuries)

➤ - **illus.: Paul**

- **2 Tim. 4:7-8 I was a faithful Christian to the end**

➤ - **Phil. 3:7-11 I gave all**, didn't withhold anything from God — love with all heart, soul, mind, strength

- **illus.: your life — What will your proudest accomplishments be, as you get ready to close your eyes in death?**

- **elders (Dennis & Jerry):** Christians, raised faithful families, work as elders, people they helped serve God and be saved

- **Polly:** Christian, raised faithful family, helped Brother Phillips, worked a secular job so they could publish Searching The Scriptures and help millions of people learn about God

- **you:** If you died today, what would you proudest of?

- **These are things most important to you! — What does it tell you?**

- **Who on his deathbed is remorseful of leaving physical wealth behind?** - not even sinful, too afraid

➤ - “I'm going home to be with the Lord!”

- **illus.: Jesus**

- **Jn. 16:28 Jesus going back to be with God**

➤ - **illus.: Paul**

- **Phil. 1:21-24 Paul's contemplation of the benefits of death**, looking forward to **being with God**

➤ - **2 Cor. 5:1-7 Paul's teaching - benefits of death - eternal life**

- **vs. 1** eternal dwelling in heaven

- **vs. 2** longing for eternal dwelling with God — **do you?**

- **vs. 4** burdened while in physical body — **are you, or do you like it too much?**

- **vs. 5** God prepares us — **are you prepared?**

- **vs. 7** walk by faith, not sight – not seem God or heaven – **do you?**

- **What do you hear people often do at the very end of life?** - talk to God, tell Him they are coming home

➤ **What don't you want to say about yourself while on your deathbed?**

- "I'm sorry I ever lived! I'm sorry I wasted my life!"

- **R- Matt. 27:1-5** Judas betrayed Jesus for \$, tried to give back (couldn't be undone), remorse, suicide

➤ - "When the Lord comes again, I won't come back with Him - I'll never see my loved ones in Christ, and brethren, again!"

- **1 Th. 4:14-17; 2 Th. 1:6-9** return of Jesus, brings saints

➤ - "I know I'm going to hell!"

- **illus.: Ananias and Sapphira**

- **wonder what they were thinking** right before they died - Christians, one lie cost them eternity

- **illus.: car wreck**, lying on ground, dying - know going to close eyes in death and awake in torment

- "I could have obeyed the gospel (baptized) so many times, but I didn't!"

- **illus.: kids not Christians**

- "If I would have obeyed God and faithfully served Him, I might could have taught my children - but they're going to be lost too, partly because of my disobedience!" — **not everything with our control**

- **Allan: I don't want to have any regrets!**

- I don't want to come to the end of life and say:

- "I wish I would have. . . ."

- "I should have. . . ."

- "I knew I'd have regrets, but I did it any way!"

- "I had time to make it right, but I didn't!"

- "I wasted my life — I could have done so much good, but I squandered it!"

- "I did the worst thing I could do to my kids — I didn't teach them about God!"

➤ **What can you do today, to make sure you're glad to close your eyes in death, and stand before the Lord?**

- **Love God**

- **1 Jn. 4:17-18** love cast out all fear – **love = no regrets**

➤ - **Obey God**

- **1 Jn. 5:3** love God = obey, keep commandments – **obey God, give God all, no regrets**

- **Jn. 14:15** "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

➤ - **All your heart, soul, mind, strength**

- **Mk. 12:30** "and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." — **give all**

- **personal work and evangelism:**

- **What can you do? What should you do? What more can you do?**

- **new year 2007:**

- **What can you do in 2007 to improve in your service to God?**

➤ - **Inv.:** All of us are at the crossroads of life - go right or life - do good or evil

- which way will you go