



# CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Living Victoriously
Topic	Why Live to Finish Well
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
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## Message Summary

### Living Life with the End in Mind

The roadmap of life contains a start, checkpoints along the way, and ultimately – the end. What is important for us as followers of Christ to realize is that the end of this life ushers us into eternity. Hence, we then live with a particular purpose – becoming more and more like Jesus Christ, and through a growing relationship with God, ultimately ready for His return.

### Why Live to Finish Well?

#### 1. Who am I becoming?

As followers of Christ we need to be convicted of the basis of our being – created and to be conformed (Romans 8:29) to the image of Jesus Christ. Hence we live our lives no longer as our own, but as Christ who lives in us (Gal. 2:20). The practical application of this is that we must not respond to our sinful nature, the impulses of the flesh, but choose to be alive to God in Christ – obeying His commandments over the ways of the world.

#### 2. Fulfilling God's Call & Purpose for my life – Living & Serving God

Obedying God's standards and living as He desires us to, is to be secure in knowing that we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10). God calls us to walk in His ways, and there are several evidences that Jesus himself modeled for us to live and learn from – preaching the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, etc.

#### 3. Basic Doctrines – Salvation & Works

Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches us that it is by grace we have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Reading on however, Ephesians 2:10 speaks of how we have been "created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them". Therefore, let us have a correct understanding of works – not as the basis of our salvation, but as the basis of our rewards or losses. 1 Corinthians 3:8,10 speaks of this, teaching us how "each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor... but let each one take heed how he builds on it." Hence we live a life of good works to better reap the rewards of laboring.

#### 4. Accountability & the respective Rewards

Living to finish well is important because one day we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Each one of us will then receive what is due him for the things done while in the body (i.e. our life here on earth), whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:9-11). In fact, when the Lord returns, Revelations 22:12 shows us that Jesus will bring our rewards with Him, and give to every one according to his work. Hence when we grapple with living the life of a disciple, when we grapple with having to deny ourselves daily, to take up our crosses, and to follow the ways of Christ, let us remember that He will reward each according to his work.



# CELL GUIDE 2015

The difficulty in denying ourselves and following the ways of Christ is that it can feel as if we are withholding from ourselves good things and are being short-changed. But the truth of God's Word is crystal clear that when we are wise and faithful servants, the master will make us ruler over all the master's goods (Matthew 24:45-47). Let us not lose heart then, but rather do all things heartily as to the Lord, and not to men, for we know that we will receive the reward of the inheritance from serving the Lord (Col 3:23-24).

## 5. Bottom-line & Conclusion

SP exhorted us to ask the Holy Spirit to "tweak" in us the areas in our lives that need improvement, which need to experience victorious living. Colossians 1:9-11 calls us to ask God to fill us with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, to live a life worth of the Lord. Ultimately, we grow in the assurance and confidence that even as we step out to live victoriously for God in our present lives on earth, we can daily say "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

## Questions

Why is living to finish well so important? What does it mean to be saved by grace through faith in Christ?

What aspects of the accountability and rewards in the importance of victorious living resonate with you personally? Which do you struggle with?



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Living to finish well is about making the right choices every day, to have the full confidence and joy of facing Christ upon his return. What is one choice you will make to better fight the good fight, run the race, and keep the faith?

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