

Chapter 19 – The Return Home

There are Some Things Worth Finishing

Whenever Pastor Bob and Kristi go on a cruise, they always get excited about art. At times they have bought a painting or sculpture and then they can't wait to get home and hang the picture or find just the right place for the sculpture. Unfortunately, some of those paintings are still waiting to be hung! But they will tell you they were sure excited at first.

A number of years ago (like 25+), Pastor Bob's son, Jeremy came home with a chin-up bar you hook on a door frame. Pastor Bob thought, "I'll show him how this is done. Then he will say, 'My dad is a beast.'" Pastor Bob thinks he used it once. But he was excited when Jeremy brought it home.

We are guessing that many of you have a number of boxes full of pictures like we do. We dream of having these put in albums and arranged by year on a bookshelf. We think when people come over, they will say, "We wish we were as organized as Pastor Bob and Pastor Josh." We get excited about the idea every so often.

We have a collection of unfinished projects. There are some books and exercise programs too. Things started but were left unfinished. Do you finish everything you start? We imagine not. And to be honest, some things aren't worth finishing.

But don't think, even for a second, that you can put God in your collection of unfinished projects. For starters, He isn't a "project." Besides, He's not going to sit on a shelf contentedly waiting for you to give Him your attention once the kids are grown or the retirement is funded, or other tasks are completed.

The Israelites learned that lesson the hard way. They returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple. They started strong but in time turned their attention to other endeavors. What was important to God became unimportant to them.

Sixteen years passed without any work being done on the temple. So, God allowed drought and downturns and difficulties to come upon them. And He said, "Give careful thought to your ways" (Haggai 1:5, 7).

God is either the main thing in your life or He is nothing. At the end of the day, each of us are responsible for our own schedule. There is really no such thing as partial obedience. God begins as the priority and then we schedule time with Him. We schedule the things that are important to Him. Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God . . ." (Matthew 6:33). The Jews eventually got back to God's priorities and took part in one of the greatest works of heaven. You can too. There are some things worth finishing. This is how He wants to line up our story with His Story!

Pastor Josh and Pastor Bob

