Scriptural Text:

Psalm 90:17; John 17:4; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Hebrews 5:12-14; James 2:14-17; 26

Main Points:

- 1. Early in our journey with the Lord, we are still the center of our interest and concern. As we mature, that shifts.
- 2. *"I need no longer try to follow Christ, for cheap grace, the bitterest foe of discipleship, which true discipleship must loathe and detest, has freed me from that." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, <u>The Cost of Discipleship.</u>*
- 3. If we say we believe God, but don't obey him, then we don't believe him.
- 4. The life with Christ is one that includes both inhaling and exhaling. We inhale God's love, truth, and presence with us. We exhale our gratitude toward God by serving him and giving to others.
- 5. God has both a general purpose for our life (to glorify him), and a specific purpose related to how he created us.
- 6. Faith without works is dead. God intends for our faith to be combined with our work.
- 7. The point of works is not to be busy, it is to do what God has called us to do. It is to obey him.
- 8. Exhaling without inhaling leads to legalism, creating our own spiritual expression plan without having a relationship with God.
- 9. In our journey with the Lord, he will ask us to surrender everything that competes with our love for him. He will reorder our life in such a way that nothing usurps his place.
- 10. Every aspect of our life is to glorify God.

Questions:

- 1. How would you describe the inhaling part of your life, your closeness with Jesus? Is an adjustment needed?
- 2. How would you describe the exhaling part of your life, serving the Lord? Does it emerge from your closeness with the Lord? Is an adjustment needed?
- 3. What clues have you gathered about God's purpose for your life?

Prayer of Response:

Lord God, I desire to live my life in a way that glorifies you. Please work both internally (in my relationship with you), and externally (in my expressions of service), so that my life is being used for the highest purpose possible. I choose to give you the priority, by your grace and with your help. In Jesus name, amen.

Commitment: After prayerful meditation on this podcast, I am going to _____

Date: