



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “UNITE: Groundhog Day”

Ps. Russ Austin - Feb. 8, 2015

#### WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What is one quality that you think is important to having a great marriage?
- What couple do you think has a great marriage, and why?
- If you are married, how long was your engagement?

#### WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

Galatians 6:9-10 (ESV) *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Perseverance is absolutely necessary to bring about something great. It might be a great marriage, a great church, a great business, or some other worthwhile endeavor that God has called you to do.

The challenges our nation currently faces makes clear that racial issues still are in great need of God's reconciliation. Overcoming our nation's past and present injustices doesn't happen in one event. Instead, it requires a lifetime of dedication and hard work to bring about reconciliation.

This is true of all great objectives. It takes a lifetime to build a truly great marriage, church, or business.

Quitting cannot be an option. Quitting guarantees failure. Success requires perseverance. To do great things God requires people with a dream who will be faithful and won't quit.

Yet a lack of apparent success is no excuse for a failure to obey God. We are called to obedience regardless of whether the success we seek and desire comes when we want it.

Often it may seem that nothing is changing, that we are making no progress. Perhaps it seems that we are not changing, that our spouses are not changing, that our church or business is not changing, or that our communities and nation are not changing. But slow is not the same as stopped. If we will be faithful to do good, to do God's will, and to persevere, God promises that we will eventually reap the benefits.

Often we will see the promised blessings in this life, but many times we will not see them until after our time on this earth. We cannot give up, if we trust in God. Trust perseveres.

Progress is always happening when we are perseveringly obedient to God. At times it is very noticeable to us. It is like shoveling with a large scoop shovel. These are the times where significant things are happening.

Other times it is more like a spade, noticeable, but not as significantly. We sense we are making strides, but it is more tedious. These are the faithful routines of good habits that we keep doing in our lives.

At other times it is like a hand-spade. Life seems hard and no progress is evident to us. But God still calls us to obey. These are the times that both test and forge our character. If we will persevere and not quit during these times, God will bring to view the results of the progress that now is hidden but still going on.

**PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- Is there anything in your life that you are discouraged about and thinking about giving up on?
- What would it take to inspire you to persevere at something that is difficult or discouraging?
- What does the following statement mean for your life? God calls us to obedience regardless of an apparent lack of success that we may desire or seek.

**PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- That God would strengthen our convictions and resolve to persevere in doing the good he has called us to do.
- That the Holy Spirit would continue to stir the dreams God has put in our hearts.
- That God would help us discern the season we are in, so that we may have the perspective we need in order to persevere in doing God's will.