

## **THE ULTIMATE #1 – INTRO**

- **The thought that "you only live once" (YOLO) cuts in two directions.**
- **One man will ponder the brevity of life and give himself permission to live for the here and now, the moment, and abandon self-restraint to satisfy his appetites. The pressure/feelings of the "now" takes over his mind and body.**
- **Another man's thoughts will go toward eternity and accountability to God and he will choose a completely opposite direction. The healthy pressure of a future moment before God and his eternal destiny takes over. The specter of the future/eternal takes over his mind and body.**
- **One man fixes his attention on what is seen. The other focuses on what is unseen.**
- **One man decides to live for the immediate. The other man lives for the ULTIMATE.**
- **One man goes backward in spiritual maturity through self-gratification. The other man goes forward in spiritual maturity through disciplined self control and restraint.**
- **God's word agrees with the fact and reality that "You only live once."**
- **But God's advises man – in light of that reality - to say yes to THE ULTIMATE priority and permanence of God's purposes**
- **And say no to the IMMEDIATE pull and pressure of the flesh and a godless culture**

**The ULTIMATE #1**  
**Kenny Luck**

**ULTIMATE (adj): the best imaginable of it's kind**

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 4:1-11 NIV*

**SATAN'S GOAL:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**JESUS'S GOAL:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**SATAN'S WAY:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**JESUS'S WAY:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**SATAN'S WIN:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**JESUS'S WIN:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

*"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matt. 6:19-24 NIV*

**THE COMMON DENOMINATOR IN THE HALL OF FAITH: LIVING FOR THE ULTIMATE**

*"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible." Hebrews 11:13-16, 24-27*

**LIVING FOR THE ULTIMATE INVOLVES:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **CREATING** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **DRIVING** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **COMMANDING** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **PRODUCING** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 NIV*

**BECAUSE WE KNOW:**

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*“So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 NIV*

**FOR DISCUSSION:**

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF A MAN'S LIFE? WHO LOSES OR GAINS BASED ON WHO GETS CONTROL?**

**HOW HAS LIVING FOR THE “IMMEDIATE” IMPACTED YOUR CHARACTER AND RELATIONSHIPS?**

**HOW HAS LIVING FOR THE “ULTIMATE” IMPACTED YOUR CHARACTER AND RELATIONSHIPS?**

**LOOK AT THE LAST VERSE OF TODAY'S STUDY AGAIN...WHAT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO US HAVING AN ULTIMATE MINDSET AND LIFESTYLE?**

**HOW DOES A FELLOWSHIP OF MEN CONTRIBUTE TO LIVING FOR THE ULTIMATE?**

