

## **RULES FOR SUCCESS**

COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:1

MAY 21, 2006 SUNDAY A.M.

### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. "Advice You Never Learned In School"-consists of ten rules for life.
  - Rule #1: Life is not fair; get used to it.
  - Rule #2: You will not make 100 thousand dollars a year right out of high school.
  - Rule #3: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.
  - Rule #4: If you mess up, its not your parent's fault.
  - Rule #5: Before you were born, your parent's weren't as boring as they are now.
  - Rule #6: Before you save the rain forest try delousing your own closet.
  - Rule #7: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not.
  - Rule #8: You don't get summers off anymore.
  - Rule #9: Television is not real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to their jobs.
  - Rule #10: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.
- B. The Apostle Paul lists his own rules for success in Colossians 1:24-2:1. Notice three in this passages.

### **I. RULE #1: YOU MUST BE WILLING TO SUFFER IF YOU WANT TO BE A SUCCESS.**

- A. When we look at successful people, we only see the fruits of their success. We don't see the heartaches, the pain, the loneliness that goes along with it.
- B. For example, take Tiger Woods.
  - 1. We only see his success today.

Eldrick (Tiger) Woods, now 30 years of age, has had an unprecedented career since becoming a professional golfer in the late summer of 1996. He has won 66 tournaments, 48 of those on the PGA TOUR, including the 1997, 2001, 2002 and 2005 Masters Tournaments, 1999 and 2000 PGA Championships, 2000 and 2002 U.S. Open Championships, and 2000 and 2005 British Open Championships. With his second Masters victory in 2001, Tiger became the first ever to hold all four professional major championships at the same time. He is the career victories leader among active players on the PGA TOUR, and is the career money list leader.

Woods won 11 tournaments in 2000, nine on the PGA TOUR, one on the PGA European Tour and the PGA Grand Slam. In addition, Woods and David Duval won the World Cup team title for the United States. He earned \$9,188,321 on the PGA TOUR (\$11,034,530 worldwide) and broke the PGA TOUR record of \$6,616,585 which he set in 1999.

Tiger increased his record total on the PGA TOUR career money list to \$55,770,760 through 2005, and had won \$68,151,294 worldwide.
  - 2. We didn't see him, though...

At the age of six months trying to imitate his father's golf swing.

At two appearing in the "Mike Douglas Show" and putting against Bob Hope.

At age 3 shooting a 48 over the nine hole course at the Navy Golf Club in Cypress, Calif.

At age 8 winning the Optimist International Junior Championship, which he would repeat when he was 9, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

At 18 winning the U.S. Amateur Championship.

At 20 becoming the first golfer in history to win three consecutive U.S. Amateur titles.

And he continues to rewrite golfer history even today.

Did you know Tiger Woods gets up every day at 5:00 a.m. so he can hit the practice tee which is just a short 7 iron shot from his front door.

Success does not come without a willingness to suffer.

C. The Apostle Paul was also willing to pay the price of suffering in order to fulfill his calling from God-V. 24a.

D. And if we would be successes today we must be willing to pay that same price of suffering.

## **II. RULE #2: YOU MUST BE WILLING TO SERVE IF YOU WANT TO BE A SUCCESS.**

A. The Philadelphia Foundation awarded 7 year old Alexandria Scott its "Philanthropist of the Year" award. She raised \$80,000 dollars for cancer research selling cups of lemonade from a stand in her front year.

She came up with the idea while in the hospital herself for treatment of a rare form of cancer that strikes mostly children. Her cancer was diagnosed on her first birthday. Her motive was to give back to the hospital because they had done so much for her.

B. Jesus, himself, followed this rule of service-Matthew 20:28.

C. Paul did too-v.25a.

## **III. RULE #3: YOU MUST BE WILLING TO STRUGGLE IF YOU WANT TO BE A SUCCESS.**

A. Steve Jobs knows about success, but he also knows about struggle.

"I was lucky I found what I loved to do early in life. Woz (Steve Wozniak) and I started Apple in my parents' garage when I was 20. We worked hard, and in 10 years Apple had grown from just the two of us in a garage into a \$2 billion company with over 4,000 employees. We had just released our finest creation "the Macintosh" a year earlier, and I had just turned 30. And then I got fired. How can you get fired from a company you started? Well, as Apple grew, we hired someone who I thought was very talented to run the company with me, and for the first year or so things went well. But then our visions of the future began to diverge, and eventually we had a falling out. When we did, our Board of Directors sided with him. So at 30 I was out. And very publicly out. What had been the focus of my entire adult life was gone, and it was devastating.

I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.

During the next five years, I started a company named NeXT, another company named Pixar, and fell in love with an amazing woman who would become my wife. Pixar went on to create the world's first computer animated feature film, Toy Story, and is now the most successful animation studio in the world. In a remarkable turn of events, Apple bought NeXT, I returned to Apple, and the technology we developed at NeXT is at the heart of Apple's current renaissance. And Laurene and I have a wonderful family together.

I'm pretty sure none of this would have happened if I hadn't been fired from Apple. It was awful tasting medicine, but I guess the patient needed it.

Steve Jobs, 2005 commencement address at Stanford University.

B. Paul struggled to share the gospel with others-v.29 & 2:1.

C. We too must be willing to struggle if we want to be a success.

## **CONCLUSION**

A. These are Paul's rules for success.

B. They aren't easy, but they can be rewarding if we are willing to...

1. Suffer
2. Serve
3. Struggle