

Live for the Eternal

The Disciple's Response to This Present World

I enjoy speaking to young people about God and His Purpose for them, for they have their entire lives still before them, and that is a good thing! But it can also be bad for it can deceive them into thinking that there will always be time later for such weighty endeavors. For many, their procrastination results in unrealized dreams and opportunities lost as time and age rob them of their promise. For them, *'youth is wasted on the young'*.

That is why I challenge young people to imagine themselves at the age of seventy, and to think what they would have liked to have accomplished with their lives by then, for the time to begin is now. The few who are able to see the wisdom of this exercise gain a measure of insight that eludes most.

Scripture is replete with references on how fleeting our lives are, and the wisdom of living for the eternal. Let us pray for a heart of wisdom that we might learn from them.

- 10 As for the days of our life,
they contain seventy years,
Or if due to strength, eighty years,
Yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow;
For soon it is gone and we fly away.
- 12 So teach us to number our days,
That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:10,12

Memorize 

What is this passage teaching us? _____

- 4 "LORD, make me to know my end
And what is the extent of my days;
Let me know how transient I am.
- 5 "Behold, You have made my days *as* handbreadths,
And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight;
Surely every man at his best is a mere breath. *Selah.*
- 6 "Surely every man walks about as a phantom;
Surely they make an uproar for nothing;
He amasses *riches* and does not know who will gather them.
- 7 "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

Psalm 39:4-7

What causes the psalmist to hope in the Lord? _____

Psalm 90:10-12

Circle or Underline ...

- v 10 How long we live.
v 12 What we must be taught.
In order that we must
present what to God.

The one who understands the brevity of this life will surely become wiser.

Psalm 39:4-7

Circle or Underline ...

- v 4 What I must be made to know.
What I must know.
v 5 What every man is at best.
v 6 What men make an uproar for.
v 7 Where is my hope.

This passage puts our lives in eternal perspective, and there really is no comparison! Note the words used to describe our earthly lives. Is it no wonder the psalmist has placed his hope in God?

Eternity Puts Things in Perspective

The true nature of some things can be accurately assessed only by contrast. Though the hardships and temptations in this world can seem insurmountable at times, they are mere moments when seen from the eternal vantage point.

- 16 Therefore we do not lose heart,
but though our outer man is decaying,
yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
- 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us
an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
- 18 while we look *not* at the things which are seen,
but at the things which are not seen;
for the things which are seen are temporal,
but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:

How does the apostle Paul's perspective affect the way he views his affliction?

Memorize →

- 15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 For all that is in the world,
the lust of the flesh and
the lust of the eyes and
the boastful pride of life,
is not from the Father, but is from the world.
- 17 The world is passing away,
and *also* its lusts;
but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17

What is John's main argument against surrendering to the temptations of this world? _____

When living for the Eternal, giants are brought down to size and trials are made endurable. Even elephants look like ants when viewed from the 77th floor!

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Circle or Underline ...

- v 16 What is happening to the outer man.
What is happening to the inner man.
- v 17 What affliction produces.
- v 18 What we look not at.
What we look to.
What is temporal.
What is eternal.

It is never easy to suffer, but knowing that there is an eternity of joy beyond helps put our suffering in perspective. Trials will end when eternity's bliss begins.

1 John 2:15-17

Circle or Underline ...

- v 15 What we should not love.
What is true of those who do.
- v 16 What is in the world.
- v 17 What is passing away.
Who lives forever.

The temporalness of this world is reason enough not to value it! Why place so much effort in something that will not last?!

Eternity Reveals the True Value of Things

In light of eternity, things that seemed so important, are seen for what they truly are. Our sense of what is genuinely precious is purified when viewed through the eyes of God.

- 15 Then (Jesus) said to them,
"Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed;
for not even when one has an abundance
does his life consist of his possessions."
- 16 And He told them a parable, saying,
"The land of a rich man was very productive.
- 17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying,
'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'
- 18 "Then he said, '
This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones,
and there I will store all my grain and my goods.
- 19 'And I will say to my soul,
"Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come;
take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."
- 20 "But God said to him,
'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you;
and now who will own what you have prepared?'
- 21 "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself,
and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:15-21

How would the 'rich man' be viewed from the world's perspective? _____

In God's eyes, what made this man a 'fool'? _____

Disciples who live for the Eternal, view this life from a perspective diametrically opposed to the world's. The true value of our possessions, our activities and our relationships are revealed through a heavenly vantage point. When we live for the Eternal, our lives realize infinite significance, for we are uniting it with the Eternal God and His Eternal Purpose. People who align their lives to the Eternal God transcend the temporal and abide in things eternal. That is true discipleship!

Luke 12:15-21

Circle or Underline ...

- v 15 What we must be on guard against.
What our lives do not consist of.
- v 16-18 Who the parable is about.
What his problem was.
- v 19 What he said to himself.
- v 20 What God called him.
What was required of him.
- v 21 Toward whom the man was not rich.

Our World values the 'rich and famous' - their homes, their lives and their status. But in God's eyes, they may be fools if they are poor toward Him. In God's Kingdom, worldly riches, prestige and fame are worthless. Even the lowliest of God's servants is richer than the wealthiest of men!

Live for the Eternal

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In light of what what you learned, list what you will do.

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

**By the Light of Eternity
is the True Value of Things Revealed**