

LIVING WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE – Pt.2

*INTRODUCTION

**Matthew 6:19–23 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

**ILLUST. Randy Alcorn, in his book “Money, Possessions, and Eternity,” shares the following illustration. Imagine you are alive at the very end of the Civil War. You live in the south, but your family and home are really in the north. While you are in the south, you have accumulated a great deal of Confederate currency. Suppose you also know for a fact that the North will win the war, and that the end could come at any time.*

What will you do with all your Confederate currency?

If you are smart, the only answer to the question is to cash in your Confederate currency for U.S. currency—the only money that will have value once the war is over. You would keep only enough Confederate currency to meet your basic needs for that short period until the war is over, and the money would be worthless.

1. As Christians, we have the inside scoop that there is coming a time (and it could be very soon), when the currency of this world—its money, possessions, investments, and holdings will be of no value.
 - Their true value is that of creating eternal commodities.
2. To accumulate earthly treasures or deny yourself earthly resources so as not to be able to invest in eternal dividends is equivalent to mishandling Confederate currency despite our knowledge of its eventual uselessness.

**1 Corinthians 3:12–15 (NKJV) Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone’s work, which he has built on it, endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

**Jim Elliot: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*

***LIVING WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**

On Mission

- Living life in light of eternity must begin with right perspective.

ILLUST. QUESTION: *What if, the moment you became a Christian, you went to heaven, but when you got there, Jesus approached you and made a personal request: "I want you to partner with Me to accomplish My eternal work in people's lives."*

***John 17:15-18,24**

- We must understand that once you become a Christian, you are on mission; it is part and parcel of your salvation in Jesus Christ, by the fact that He is your Lord.

***Jesus Will Celebrate Your Service**

- Jesus then goes on to say that when we return, He is going to recognize and celebrate all that we did while we were on the mission.

***Hebrews 6:10** *God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

- **Absolutely nothing will go unnoticed by Him.**

***Rewards Identified (Crowns, Positions, & Possessions)**

- As Jesus prepares us for our mission, He tells us ahead of time some of what He will reward us for.

1. *Good works of obedient living

Colossians 3:23–24 (NKJV) *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

2. *Denying earthly benefits for God's sake.

Matthew 16:24–27 (NKJV) *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. . . . 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

3. *Returning evil with good.

Luke 6:35 (NKJV) *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. . .*

4. *Enduring difficult times faithful to God.

Hebrews 10:34–35 (NKJV) *for you . . . joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. 35 Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has a great reward.*

5. *Persevering in persecution for your faith

Luke 6:22–23 (NKJV) *Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.*

6. *Doing deeds of kindness

Luke 14:13–14 (NKJV) *But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. 14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."*

7. *Evangelism and discipleship efforts

1 Thessalonians 2:19–20 (NKJV) *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.*

8. *Living disciplined for spiritual maturity & ministry

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NKJV) *And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

9. *Anticipating Jesus' return

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (NKJV) *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

10. *Elders Faithfully Leading

1 Peter 5:4 (NKJV) *and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

Summary

Matthew 25:23 (NKJV) *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

*Remember

1. God will not forget one act of obedience toward Him and good work to others!
 - Eternal life & rewards are real!!
2. Scripture clearly teaches that eternity will hold for the Christian what has been invested in during this life!
 - Christians sometimes think this world is so great (our Junction City). We can't give it up for the majesty and grandeur of heaven.
 - That is such short-sighted or myopic living!
 - If I truly believe that how I live my life has an irreversible effect for all eternity, then surely it should affect how I live today!!

*APPLICATION

Colossians 3:1-2 *If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*

1. *True Treasure Hunters

- The true treasure hunters are not found working 80 hours a week for a healthy retirement or seeking to leverage everything they have and are to upscale their standard of living.
- ***they are found serving dinner down at the homeless shelter;**
- *they are found teaching illiterate adults how to read;*
- *they are found doing chores and errands for someone who is housebound;*
- *they are found praying on their knees,*
- ***they are found ministering to children, youth, men, women**
- *they are found ministering to youth at risk, single teenage moms, in prisons*
- *they are found advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ in non-Christian's lives*
- ***they are found investing in discipleship relationships with others**
- *they are found using their talents and skills to minister and serve others for God*
- *their career/business is based on kingdom interests*
- *they are found namelessly and facelessly serving cross-culturally on mission fields*

2. *Strategic Living

- *Living Big in light of eternity* does not mean that the Christian who follows Christ becomes a possession-less monk.

a. Live With an Eternal Perspective Toward Earthly Responsibilities

- husband or wife or parent or child
- as a student,
- as an employee or employer,
- as a neighbor,
- as a citizen

b. *Live With an Eternal Perspective Toward Your Purpose for Your Life.

c. *Live With an Eternal Perspective Toward Stewardship:

- your wealth and possessions,
- your time and energy,
- your talents and skills,

*Summary:

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Our sins are totally forgiven, but how we live our life will be reviewed by God and we will receive reward or loss of reward accordingly.

***PARADIGM SHIFT:**

There is no suggestion in Scripture that once God bestows or withholds rewards to the Christian that they are anything other than eternal or irrevocable in nature.

**Scripture does not teach what many of us assume, that how Christians live our earthly lives will be of no eternal significance, and that we will all be eternal equals.*

- The treasures of eternal **possessions**, **positions**, and **crowns** that are awaiting us are being established in the context of this life.
- We will not have another chance to spend our lives!
- Do we really believe that Christ will reward the life that is lived in selfishness and indifference toward His kingdom in the same manner that He will the life spent devoted to glorifying Him and advancing His kingdom in the lives of others and on earth?

If we truly believed that how we spend our life on earth will have an irreversible effect for all eternity—how then should we live???

***Why do we not live with an eternal perspective?**

1. Unaware?
2. Fear?
3. Unbelief?
4. Entitlements?
5. Selfishness?



1

HARBORVIEW FELLOWSHIP

Equipping people to passionately
Live like Jesus lived,
Do what Jesus did, and
Advance His kingdom together.

2

LIVING WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE



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LIVING WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE



Matthew 6:19–23 (NKJV) . . . 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

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"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

Jim Elliot

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"What to do with Confederate currency?"

Randy Alcorn
*Money, Possessions,
and Eternity*

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WHAT YOU TREASURE CAPTIVATES YOU LIVING WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

On Mission - *John 17:15-18,24*



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WHAT YOU TREASURE CAPTIVATES YOU LIVING WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

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Jesus Will Celebrate Your Service

Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.



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WHAT YOU TREASURE CAPTIVATES YOU LIVING WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

On Mission

Jesus Will Celebrate Your Service

Identifying the Rewards – (Crowns, Positions, Possessions)



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LIVING WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

Identifying the Rewards

1. Good Works of Obedient Living

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2. Denying Earthly Benefits for God's Sake

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4. Enduring Difficult Times Faithful to God



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REMEMBER



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