

Authentic Christianity: Eternally Minded
Pendleton First Assembly of God
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Opening: Perspective is crucial for today's Christian. Understanding the time, we live in and our part to play in the plan of God for lives is important. Having a heart and mind that is set on Eternity is what the Bible calls Wisdom. How does having a correct biblical mindset help us live for Christ? Let's look deeper into what the Bible has to say about living with eternity on our minds.

Key Scriptures:

Colossians 3:1-4 1 Therefore, since you have been raised with Christ, strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also **set eternity in the hearts of men**, yet they cannot fathom the work that God has done from beginning to end.

Deuteronomy 32:7 **Remember the days of long ago;** think about the generations past. Ask your father, and he will inform you. Inquire of your elders, and they will tell you.

Romans 1:20-21 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts.

1. The Temptation of short sightedness: All temptations offer temporary treasures or gains at the expense of eternal rewards.

a. God has determined that He is going to reward the faithful who keep their focus on Christ and who fully obey His commandments. Are you building your life to receive the eternal or temporary reward?

b. The Authentic Christian considers the eternal weight of the decisions they make on a daily basis. What do those questions look like when we ask them?

1. Does this decision I am about to make glorify God?

2. Does this decision draw me closer to God

or further away?

3. Will this decision result in my obedience to God's word or the compromise of it?

4. Do I have the firm peace of God in my heart concerning this decision?

5. Is this decision based off my want or my need?

c. Life Lesson: Your adversary and your fallen nature will push and rush you to make decisions based on emotions, fear, temporary trials, and the desire for comfort, status, significance instead of living for a legacy that lasts through Christ.

d. Life Lesson: Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go, cost you more than you want to pay, keep you longer than you wanted to stay. ** Giving in to our carnal temptations will always have unforeseen consequences. All sin will rob of us of our tomorrow with its promises for today.

2. Our life goes on forever

a. It can be difficult to fathom eternity considering time. Let us do our best to paint a picture of how brief this life really is. The rope of eternity and the hourglass of time.

b. Two words that sum up two mindsets "Invest" or "Spend" The eternally minded Christian lives with the aim to invest the God given

gifts and talents into the work of God's will in the hopes that it will reap an eternal return.

c. The temporary/carnal minded Christian lives with the aim to make it through this life, to do the bare minimum to ensure they possess fire insurance. This life is to be enjoyed and suffering must be limited at all costs to ensure comfort and prosperity. Life is for pleasure and pleasure at all costs.

d. Key Scripture: 1st Corinthians 3: 10-15 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 his workmanship will be evident, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will prove the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as if through the flames.

2nd Corinthians 5:10 For we must all be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ, that each may receive back the things *done* through the body according to what he did, whether good or evil.

e. The eternally minded person, aiming for the maximum reward will ensure they keep a pure heart so that their motives will always be pure and based on Christ's desires. Ask yourself "Why am I doing what I am doing?" What benefit am I seeking? My own or the betterment of my neighbor.

3. A Poem by C.T. Studd, British Missionary to China at the turn of the 19th century, who left everything this world could have offered Him for the sake of Christ.

Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way; Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done; Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgement seat; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God's holy will to cleave; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears; Each with its clays I must fulfill, living for self or in His will; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore, When Satan would a victory score; When self would seek to have its way, Then help me Lord with joy to say; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep, In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep; Faithful and true what e'er the strife, Pleasing Thee in my daily life; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Oh let my love with fervor burn, And from the world now let me turn; Living for Thee, and Thee alone, Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, "Thy will be done;" And when at last I'll hear the call, I know I'll say "twas worth it all;" Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

4. Conclusion: The Life God rewards is not looking to do or live like everyone else. The life lived for God is not afraid of the hard tasks and is willing to lose to gain, die to live, come in last place, serve, and not be served, and to love on purpose without concern for itself.

a. How is this possible? Christ must be alive in you through the Holy Spirit. We cannot live this way by ourselves.

b. Wisdom considers the end from the beginning. When building we must see the final result and plan accordingly.