

# LIVING WITH AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

## IF WE ARE IN CHRIST, THEN WHAT IS TRUE OF US?

- We are **Accepted** ---(Romans 15:7)
- We are **Forgiven**--- (I John 1:9)
- We are **Adopted**--- (II Corinthians 6:17-18)
- We are **Living Sacrifices**--- (Romans 12:1-2)
- We are **Aliens** in this world---(Philippians 3:20)

“Let no one apologize for the powerful emphasis Christianity lays upon the doctrine of the world to come. Right there lies its immense superiority to everything else within the whole sphere of human thought or experience.... We do well to think of the long tomorrow. The greatest weakness of the western church today is arguably our failure to think of the long tomorrow –to take seriously the reality that heaven is our home. Out of this springs our love affair with this world and our failure to live now in light of eternity.” - A.W. Tozer

## I. WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

In the Old Testament the only acceptable sacrifice was that of an unblemished animal. This animal had to be perfect. This was true of Jesus Christ when he died for our sins and took the penalty that was for us --- death. Because of Christ's **atonement** (Hebrews 9:11-12) we no longer offer sacrifices to God for forgiveness of our sin. All we have to do is just ask. If such a high price was paid that our sins could be forgiven, should there not be a response from us to God? If so, how can we respond in an appropriate way for what Christ has done for us? Read **I John 1:9**. This is the first step to having an eternal perspective. If we are not saved, then we are not able to think, as Christ would have us think, nor act the way he would have us act. Without Him we are not capable of truly living with an eternal perspective. He is waiting for us to make that decision and ready to allow us to rest in Him. Once we do that eternal things take on a whole new meaning.

## II. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?

Have you ever taken a drink of something that you thought was either hot or cold and it ended up being neither, but right in the middle? Frustrating, God feels the same way about how we live our lives for Him. Read **Revelations 3:15-16**. God wants our response to Him to be one of being “hot”. Do not allow yourself to settle for being in the middle.

Salvation is free, but it is not cheap. Because of what Christ accomplished on the cross for us, the only acceptable worship to offer, is that of ourselves. To **give** control of our entire being to the one who created us. To **yield** ourselves **completely** to Him, that He may use us as an instrument of His righteousness. (Romans 12:1-2)

## III. WHAT IS OUR REASONABLE SERVICE?

You were out late the night before and did not have time to study for the test. It is not a real big test just one to make sure you are following along with the assigned reading for the class. When you get to the class the next day one of your friends sits down next to you, and you know that he studies and will do well

on the exam. Does it really matter if you sneak a few answers off his test? It is not like this test is half of your grade or anything. ---- Read **Colossians 3:17**. The command is not if it is good for you, but whatever you do.

### **Romans 12:1**

It logically flows that because we, in essence, owe God our lives we should give Him our highest form of service. ***In the O.T., service, usually refers to priestly or spiritual service which was such an integral part of their worship.*** Because of the work that was done on the cross, the only priest we have is Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:23-27). That means, all that we are and all that we do are for His glory and not ours!

## **IV. WHO ARE WE FOOLING?**

Ananias and Sapphira were an ordinary couple that thought they were going to get away with lying to Peter and God. Look at **Acts 5:1-11** and see how they had planned on not giving all of the profits to God. Do not get lost by the money situation but concentrate on what is going on with their hearts. This is what God is concerned with.

*Conformed*—“**Assuming an outward expression that doesn’t reflect what is really inside, a masquerade or act.**”(MacArthur study Bible)

What are some examples of this in your life? When was the last time you went along with something that you knew you were not to have any part of?

### **Romans 12:2**

We should not try to conform or “fit in” to this world. This world is ruled by Satan, therefore, the morals and thought processes of this world are corrupt. **We are to be transformed—changed – under go a metamorphosis!!!** We are new people in Christ, our way of living and thinking should change. As Christians, our lives should reflect the change that has happened on the inside by the way we conduct ourselves on the outside.

## **V. WHERE IS YOUR HOME?**

Have you ever been away from home at a special time of year and you just miss home. You start thinking about all the things that you would be doing if you were there and whom you would be talking with. Take a look at **Psalms 84:10**. Do we really look at heaven in the same terms as our earthly home? Do we long to be with our creator?

When you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, you became a citizen of heaven. This world is no longer your home. Our home is where Christ is (2 Corinthians 5:8). When our thoughts and passions start to reflect that of this world, our perspective is slanted. When they reflect that of Christ and an eager anticipation of going “home” our thoughts will be directed toward that which God has called us----Obedience to Him.

“**The more possessions and power we have in this world, the more tempted we are to forget our true citizenship is in heaven.**” - Randy Alcorn

- **ARE YOU GETTING TOO COMFORTABLE IN THIS WORLD?**
- **WHERE ARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND PASSIONS?**
- **ARE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE GOING TO MATTER WHEN YOU STAND BEFORE GOD?**
- **IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO CHANGE RIGHT NOW?**

## VI. HOW DO WE THINK ETERNALLY?

When you are faced with a situation that has two choices, go towards the world or take the high road and stay with what God would have you do, which way do you think you would go? Is your mind made up now or are you waiting for the situation to happen? Read **Acts 6:8-7:60** and see what Stephen did in the midst of one of those situations.

Ephesians 5:18 says: “ **To be filled with the Holy Spirit**”. There is only one way to live our lives with an eternal perspective and that is through Gods help. Yielding yourself to Him is not a one-time decision, it is a daily battle; A battle that is won by allowing yourself to be completely under God’s control.

To think and live eternally is to know what is eternal----**God, His word, and the souls of men**. When decisions and actions are made knowing that all else will burn away, our thoughts are turned toward that of an eternal perspective.

“Your life on earth is a dot. From that dot extends a line that goes on for all eternity. Right now you’re living in the dot. But what are you living for? Are you living for the dot or for the line? Are you living for earth or for heaven? Are you living for the short today or the long tomorrow?” - Randy Alcorn

When you...

- **Know who you are in Christ**
- **Realize what Christ has done for you**
- **Totally yield yourself to Him**
- **Give Him your reasonable service**
- **Are transformed by the renewing of your mind**
- **Are filled with the Holy Spirit**

Then our thoughts and our desires slowly become what God wants for us and not what we want for ourselves. The things that consume us now and that are of the world will not have such a hold on us because the things that matter to God will start to have the same importance with us.

### APPLYING THE TRUTHS!!!

- What or who are you conforming to?
- Are there sins in your life that need to be confessed?
- Are you willing to present your life as a living sacrifice?
- Where is your eternal perspective?
- What are some changes that need to happen?

“The world is yet to see what God can do through a man totally committed to Him”  
- Dwight L. Moody