

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

9.4.2022

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Looking From an Eternal Perspective

2 Corinthians 4: 18

Having an eternal perspective will forever change the way that we think and the way that we live. One of our goals as a Christian is to help others to look at life differently, and to have the ability, by faith, to see the invisible realities of God. This is because humanity can see no further than the worldly horizons that are set in front of them. We must ask God to open our eyes to the reality of his will, and our eternal destination which comes through his Son, Christ Jesus. Through salvation, God allows us to see our eternity with him, and he allows us to realize that this present life that we live in is just a brief window of opportunity, so that we may secure in him that which will last for all eternity. Anticipating Christ's return for his church should motivate us to live holy and godly lives here upon this earth. Living a life in the eternal perspective of God, will fulfill a purpose within us that will sustain us in our everyday life as we face temptations, trials, and tribulations. This comes through spending time in God's word, which gives unto us the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding which we need in order to have the ability to invest this life in an eternity through our service to Christ. Our service to Christ is directly affected by knowing our eternal destination and perspective.

Hebrews 11: 3,....through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen are not made of things which do appear....

We as Christians must be willing to trust God, even though there are times that we cannot see how Gods plan is going to work out. This demonstrates our obedience to God and his word, for without the understanding of his word we cannot begin to understand ourselves, or others, in the reality of looking through our eternal perspective.

2 Corinthians 4: 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....

Our eternal perspective requires a sincere focus on the eternal characteristics of God, which gives unto us our reason of hope, so that we will not lose heart in the face of our suffering in Christ. Anything of this world will only last for a short time, while the things that exist of God are eternal and will never end. Whereas the world that we live in is based upon actions of immediate gratitude of a personal nature, which is living in the pleasures of the moment. Following these guidelines means losing sight of our eternal perspective, which means losing the importance of Gods point of view. Trials and tribulations that each of us face are designed by God and are not just by chance. God knows our advantages and our disadvantages, he sees the good and the bad within us and in all that we face. We must realize that the reason God wants us to see everything in an eternal perspective, is because he sees everything in an eternal state. We are to live our lives in the powerful reality of Gods eternal state, which will allow us to see beyond the suffering of this world. It is possible to live our life with an eternal perspective, because as believers, God has given unto us the ability to bring the reality of our eternal life with him into our time and place, and into the purpose of his will.

Colossians 3: 1 – 4,....if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above....set your affection on things above....for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God....when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory....

How well do we understand the greatness of our position in Christ. Through salvation, we have become a new creation in Christ, identified with him and the power of his crucifixion and resurrection. Even though the influence of sin remains with us throughout our life here upon this earth, we are commanded to fervently seek after the righteousness of God, so that he may help us to overcome the deception of sinful temptation. The more that we understand our position in Christ, the greater our goal will be to live in the eternal perspective in Christ, rather than focusing on the sinful ways of this world. For this reason, we must submit every moment to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5: 24 – 25,....they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts....if we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit....

Before salvation we were dead in our sins. At the moment that we were saved, the indwelling Holy Spirit instilled within us the ability to live godly lives in Christ Jesus. Through Gods grace, and by faith, we have the potential to live our life godly in Christ, and the ability to mature in his righteousness. Even though we may still give into our sinful desires, we are no longer controlled by sin. Therefore, we must choose to give the Holy Spirit leadership in our lives. We are to walk by the spirit of God, which means that we do this by faith. We are saved by faith, we are to live by faith, we are to pray in our faith, and we are to walk by our faith, trusting in God and his word in all things. As we involve ourselves in the word of God, we will then see the importance of encouraging others to diligently seek the righteousness of God.

As new creations in Christ, we are to walk in the way of his righteousness, and in the truth of his word. Therefore, we are not simply to read Gods word and study its content, but we have a responsibility to obey his word and to apply it in our everyday life. We are to reframe from selfishness, and we are to guard our tongue so that we do not allow corrupt communication to come forth from our being. The words that we speak to others should come from a heart that is centered on Christ, and these words must give encouragement to others. As our words of spiritual encouragement meet the timely needs of others, not only will it bless others, but it will honor the Lord, and glorify God. Knowing the scripture, acting responsible, and obeying Gods call to minister faithfully to others will edify one another in the body of Christ.

How do we gain an eternal perspective in our life with the purpose of sharing it with others. We must live with the mindset of our eternal life in Christ. An eternal perspective will keep us from chasing empty, worldly dreams, that only have materialistic gratification. Our eternal perspective as well as the eternal perspective of others can only start with the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

John 3: 3,....verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, ne cannot see the kingdom of God....

All of humanity will retain an eternal state. The only way to escape the eternal wrath and judgement of God, in hell, is to be born again. When we accept by faith, the crucifixion, and the resurrection of Christ it is then that we become a new creature in Christ, renewed in the spirit of God. It is at this point that we begin to gain an eternal perspective in our life.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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