

LIVING IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Paul said to the church at Colosse, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:1-2).

The church is to live in light of eternity. We are to fix our mind on eternity. Eternal things should deeply concern us. But the truth is most of the church and its mind is fixed “on things on the earth.” We no longer think in the context of eternity. Listen to Christian radio, watch Christian television, look at the bulk of Christian books that are sold, and you will understand that I am correct in my assessment.

We are a church that is earthly minded. If you look and listen closely you will understand that. The average sinner looks at the church and thinks it’s all about having and getting in this life. Come to Jesus and He will “fix your life” is what many tell him. But what they fail to tell him is that this is not scriptural. The Bible nowhere promises to fix your life or solve your problems. However, the Bible does have a great deal to say about your eternity. The Bible message is deeply concerned about your life after death – eternity.

It is not about this life. It is not about prosperity in this life. It is not about happiness in this life. It is not about healing in this life. It is not about money. It is not about success. It is not about possessions. It is not about freedom from trouble. Run as fast as you can from this type of ministry. It is not about this life, it is about eternity! And this is what we must be about if we are ever going to impact our families on life after death. “Set you affection [mind] on things above [eternity].”

You’re going to live forever. Everybody is. Bodies die, people don’t, and you will live forever. And there are only two possible places: heaven or hell. The church is so busy with getting as much of this life as it can that people all around it are dying and going into eternity (hell) and the church sets back and says, “That’s so sad that he died without God.” People, understand this, eternity is a very serious matter.

It is either heaven or hell. Annihilation is a lie. Soul sleep is a lie. Reincarnation is a lie. Evolution is a lie. But heaven and hell are realities.

The driving force for salvation has nothing to do with this life, absolutely nothing. There is no promise in the gospel message that you’re going to have a trouble-free life. There is no promise in the gospel message that you’re going to have a pain-free life. There is no promise in the gospel message that you’re going to have a happy life. There is no promise in the gospel message that you’re going to be successful. The gospel message takes care of what happens in the next life.

One writer said, “You may be successful in this life, you may be wealthy in this life. You may be healthy in this life. You may be content in this life. You may have a great marriage, a great partner, good kids, nice home, good career, and so do many who have no knowledge of Christ at all. And you may, on the other hand, be miserable in this life, married to a jerk, married to somebody who is unfaithful with lousy kids who just do nothing but drive you crazy. You may

get cancer and fight it for 15 years. You may always wish to be something and do something and never do it. Some of you wish to get married and wind up single your whole life, much to your dismay. And so do many other Christians. You never measure the issues of salvation by what's going on in this life. It's about the life to come. In this world, you're going to have tribulation. But what's going to give you the upper hand in your suffering is the hope of the life to come, and that produces present joy.”

This writer was so right. The Scripture never promised what we hear so much of today. We are not saying that Jesus doesn't do anything now. He does. He does many things to help us in this life. But this life must be taken in light of Scripture.

Read Matthew 6:25-34; John 15:1-21.

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