

A Closer Look

Living In Light of Eternity

Memory verse: 2 Corinthians 4:17,18 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 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.

In concluding his 2nd letter to Timothy, Paul wrote, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2Tim4:7,8, NASB) Paul was a man who lived with eternity in his heart which caused him to proclaim the gospel, no matter the cost. For those of us who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as our only hope for eternal life, we should be living every day in light of our decision. We should be living in light of eternity. Let’s take a closer look into what that means.

Begin with prayer. Ask the Lord to speak to you through His Holy Spirit. Use your Bible for the answers.

1. Read the following verses, what do they teach you about the nature of our life here on earth?

- Psalm 39:5

- Psalm 102:3

- James 4:14

- 1 Peter 1:24

2. Using the resources you have on hand, (your Bible, a dictionary or Bible dictionary, concordance, etc.) define “eternity”

3. Hebrews 11 is known as “The Hall of Faith” because it highlights great examples of faith from the Old Testament. Study 11:1-3, how are faith and living for eternity related?

4. Read Hebrews 11. Choose one of the heroes mentioned in the chapter. Using what you learn in this chapter and any information you can find in the Old Testament, explain how that person exercised faith and lived for eternity.

5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and answer the following:

- Why did Paul not "lose heart" when his outward man was perishing?
- In what two ways does Paul contrast his affliction and the glory to come?
- Upon what does Paul keep his focus?

6. Read Col 3:1-4. How does Paul describe the mindset we are to have if we have been raised with Christ? What does it mean to set our minds on things above and how can we do that?

7. In 1 Peter 4:7-11, Paul urges us live in light of eternity, preserving our distinctiveness as believers by acting to promote Christian values. What does Peter encourage us to do above all? Why? How are we to speak and serve? What is our ultimate goal in all we do?

Application: After praying for conviction and insight, consider the following: Living for eternity requires choosing to "set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2). Take some time to evaluate yourself. Where does your treasure lie? (Matt 6:21) How do your priorities line up with God's priorities? What steps can you take to align your values more closely with God's?

End your study by thanking the Lord for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the truths you have learned.

For further study: Life is short and we need to make the most of the time that we have. Take some time to study the following verses which instruct us what living in light of eternity will look like. Write down what you learn. Gal 2:20; Gal 6:14; Eph 5:16; Phil 2:15; 2 Cor 2:15; 2 Cor 5:9.