Eternal Perspective

Read Colossians 3:1-2

In light of our position in Christ, being with Him in the heavenly places, what does Paul exhort us to do & not to do?

Why do you think Paul urges us to focus on things above? _____

Along with Paul's encouragement, read what John and Matthew both wrote concerning reasons to keep focused on things above and write down your findings.

John 10:27-30	 	 	
Matt. 24:44			

Reread Colossians 3:2

What are some earthly things you occasionally find yourself setting your mind on? _____

Why do you think we are not to set our minds on earthly things?

Read what James and John had to say about why we keep our focus off earthly things and write your findings.

James 4:13-14	 	
1 John 2:15-17	 	

Just as our perspective is to think eternally, we find in Isaiah 40:6-8 that God's Word is also eternal.

Why is it important that God's Word doesn't change?

Read Philippians 3:19-20

Here Paul teaches that our real citizenship is in Heaven, not on earth. Consider a line representing eternity – infinite in both directions – how would you represent your 70 years on earth on that line?

eternity past

eternity future

If your life represents a dot on the line, how would you like to invest your life – for the dot or for eternity?

Read Colossians 3:3-4

Because we are identified with Christ – actually hidden – we are secure in Him, belong to Him, are protected in Him, & also suffer with Him. But one day we will also be glorified with Him.

Consider these three future things we can look forward to:

- 1. We will share in His glory. When He is exalted and honored, when every knee bows to acknowledge He is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11), we, as saints, also will share in His glory and be honored with Him.
- 2. This future reality of glory helps us endure suffering in the present. Paul spoke of this clearly in Rom. 8:18 and 2 Cor. 4:17. He speaks of an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison the joys and pleasures of Heaven, seeing the Lord face to face, no more sin, pain, or death.
- **3.** We will receive actual rewards at the Judgement seat of Christ rewards for faithful service (2 Cor. 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 4:5, Matt. 25:14-30).

The rewards that Scripture indicates seem to be:

- We will reign with Christ in His coming Kingdom.
- We will receive crowns that we can throw back at His feet to express our gratitude for what He has done for us.
- Personal praise from Jesus for being faithful servants.

Which of these three is most exciting or appealing to you?

Final Reflections:

- 1. Where are you setting your mind at this time in your life? Why? Why is it so difficult to keep our mind on things above? ______
- 2. Are you living for the dot or the line?
- 3. Are there any changes you need to make to live more for eternity in your every day life? Changes in what you value? Changes in how you spend your time? Changes in your priorities?
- 4. When you look back on your life, what things will you want to have accomplished or been true of you? ______

5. What do you want to be on your tombstone? _____

6. How can even the temporal things we do be done in such a way as to gain eternal reward?

Memorize: Colossians 3:2