



The Christian Solution  
for Addictions:  
Jesus!

# Living Life with an Eternal Perspective

## Introduction

We are tempted every day to have a temporal perspective rather than an eternal perspective, to live as if our current lives are all there is. Knowing how and in what way to invest our lives is a struggle for every follower of Christ. We must continually renew our minds so that we may live in the reality of God's purpose for us, and in the knowledge that we will either be rewarded for the *stewardship of our lives* or suffer loss on the Day of Judgment.

- **1 Corinthians 3:10-15** ~ *By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.*  
<sup>11</sup>*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*  
<sup>12</sup>*If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup>their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.*  
<sup>14</sup>*If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.*  
<sup>15</sup>*If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved— even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

## Eternal Perspective

Our life on earth is but a tiny speck on the timeline of eternity. We ought to live for God's eternal purposes, not our shortsighted temporal purposes.

David, knowing he was tempted to hope in the material treasures of this life, asked God to remind him of this reality, to remind him that our lives are extremely short. Our lives are so tiny that David uses words like "fleeting," "nothing," "breath," and "phantom" to describe man's life.

The Bible encourages us to live with an eternal perspective, and reminds us of the brevity of life and the infinitude of eternity:

- **Psalm 144:3-4** ~ *"LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him? Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow."*

- **Job 14:1-6** — *"Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. <sup>2</sup>He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue. <sup>3</sup>And do You open Your eyes on such a one, and bring me to judgment with Yourself? <sup>4</sup>Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one! <sup>5</sup>Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass. <sup>6</sup>Look away from him that he may rest, till like a hired man he finishes his day."*
- **Psalms 89:46-48** ~ *"How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire? Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men? What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave?" Selah.*
- **James 4:13-16** — *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.*
- **Psalms 39:4-7** ~ *"LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. <sup>5</sup>Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Selah. <sup>6</sup>Surely every man walks about like a shadow; surely they busy themselves in vain; he heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them. <sup>7</sup>And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You."*

Many of Jesus' parables remind us of keeping an eternal perspective, such as the:

- ◆ Parable of the rich man who stored up things for himself ~ *Luke 12:13-21*
- ◆ Parable of the weeds ~ *Matthew 13:24-30*
- ◆ Parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl ~ *Matthew 13:44-46*
- ◆ Parable of the ten virgins ~ *Matthew 25:1-13*
- ◆ Parable of the talents ~ *Matthew 25:14-30*

In addition, the whole goal of the book of Revelation is to remind the believer that the life we see on earth is not reality. It warns of the deception of the evil one who tries to convince us that we should invest wholly in this life. Revelation also highlights the truth and glory of God's plan and purpose. Revelation encourages the believer to be a faithful witness for Jesus until the end, to live a life that is eternally rewarded.

Throughout Scripture we see people who stop living for God and start living for temporal goals. In the very beginning, Eve wanted knowledge of good and evil for herself, believing Satan rather than trusting God and His plan. The story of the people of Israel is similar: they distrust God's plan and eventually worship other gods. We see men in the Psalms cry out to God, fighting the temptation to place hope in temporal goals like accruing wealth and power.

- **Psalms 73:1-3** ~ *Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had*

*almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. (Read Psalms 17—20.)*

Likewise, examples abound in the New Testament. Jesus condemns the religious teachers for the earthly rewards that they seek. He contrasts this by describing the lifestyle of disciples who seek to please the Father alone and thus are promised eternal rewards.

- **Matthew 6:1-8 ~ Jesus said:** *"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.*  
*<sup>2</sup>"Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*  
*<sup>5</sup>"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>6</sup>But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. <sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."*

Paul also exhorts his readers to live not for the sensualities of this life, but to live as those who trust in God (study Ephesians 4 and 5). As we have seen, this is not an uncommon struggle, but we must all persevere by renewing our mind in the eternal truth of Christ.

### Conclusion ~ Application Questions

1. Write down a few verses that remind you of the glory of God's plans.
2. Your life is an investment. What are you investing in?
3. Are you asking God how you should spend your time, talents and treasures?
4. What are some of your temporal temptations?
5. Has this study helped you to appreciate the value of living your life with an eternal perspective?

### Memory Verses

- **Matthew 13:44** ~ *Jesus said: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*
- **Matthew 6:19-21** ~ *Jesus said: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*