

Jerry Campbell spoke this Sunday morning. He provided some thought provoking questions for each of us to consider.

Romans 8: 38; *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

1. Do you ever think of eternal life?

How often do you stop during your life to consider what the eternal will be like. Existing with God forever in a place the Bible calls heaven, how much time do you spend thinking of the eternal things? We are surrounded with so many physical things in this world that cause great distraction from the eternal. Distractions for some are work, play, and many of the amenities in life. **Everyone’s life is filled with things that can redirect their attention from the eternal.** With some, it would be poverty, oppression or suffering.

Paul encourages the Christians in Corinth with these words in II Corinthians 4:17,18: *“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”* **Paul points out that all that is involved in this world is temporary, and how necessary it is for us to keep focused upon that which is eternal.**

2. Why do so many give up the eternal things for what is temporary?

II Corinthians 4: 4; *“the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* As this passage points out that the god of this world can blind the unbeliever from seeing Christ, the same can be true of how the **temporary things can blind us to the eternal.** Our thoughts are soon consumed by these temporary things. It follows that our time, efforts and energies begin to pursue them or to ‘deal’ with them. Soon the eternal things take a back seat in our life, because the temporary becomes the most important.

3. What is the most important thing in your life?

Let us consider the richest and most powerful man of the world in his time. I Kings Chapters 10 and 11, tell us of the great wealth of the man. His riches would equate into the billions of dollars today. His power and influence was known through out the world to be unequalled. All of his wealth, position and power were a direct result from the blessings given him by God. Yet **what became most important to Solomon, was his love for women** (I Kings 11:1, 2). Even against the express command of God, Solomon became involved with not just one woman, but he had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. What was most important to him, for too long, was his love for women.

Fortunately, Solomon had time in his life for reflection and repentance. Look at his conclusions of life from his writings in Ecclesiastes. In Chapter 1 and verse 2, Solomon concludes that everything in this life is meaningless. He realizes that all is temporary. Nothing of this world has lasting value. Throughout this book he reflects on all things and finally draws a conclusion. **What is most important is that which is eternal.** In Chapter 12 verses 13, 14, Solomon puts that conclusion into words. *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”*

Hebrews 11: 24 and following, tell of Moses arriving at a turning point in his life. He chose the life of a slave over being the son of a king. **Moses recognized that the eternal things were of much more importance than the temporary things of this life.** He realized, somehow, that what he was doing was for the cause of Christ. That made it so important that Moses would not be removed (separated) from something of such great value.

4. What could, would or will separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord?

Is there anything in this temporary world that will become more important or more valuable to you than the eternal things that are found in Jesus Christ?