

September 014 2008 – SERMON SUMMARY

Living With an Eye on Heaven

What was the most popular song in your country in 1990? Who was the wealthiest person in the world in 1995? Who won the Miss Universe beauty pageant in 2000? Who won the men's Olympic gold medal in the marathon in 2004? Who is the Secretary General of the United Nations right now?

Don't worry, if you didn't know the answers to these questions. It's not telling us how intelligent we are. But it could be telling us something else. It could mean that the things that the world says are most important may not really be. Money, power, success, beauty, and fame. They are definitely part of our world, but could it be that we've believed a lie. When Jesus Christ communicated what really matters in our world he summarized it by saying "Love God and love people."

Some will disagree with that. They will say, "the real world is more complicated than that." You can't make it that simple. How about education, and paying rent, and finding a job, buying a house, all the other stuff in our world? Jesus was not saying that all those things are sinful. He was just saying that when it's all over the only thing that will matter is how we've related with God and how we've related with people.

James 4:13-14 says, "Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

God's Word calls this life a mist. A vapor. He knows that this life is only the beginning. This life is only the introduction for what we were truly created for. We were created for something so much more than making a house payment, keeping a job, getting a car, or a thousand other things that we spend our time doing. Do what you need to do, but never forget that this is only the beginning. God sees our world from an eternal perspective, and He knows that the only things that will last are God and people. So He speaks to us with His eye on heaven. He views our world from a heavenly perspective.

This life is like a courtship. The Bible calls us the Bride of Christ. Christ has invited us into a relationship with Himself. Once we accept His invitation to trust in Him, we spend the rest of our life getting to know Him. Through the good and bad times we learn more about Christ and draw close to Him. When this life is over we will finally be joined with Christ face to face. This life is only getting us ready to be with Christ for eternity.

Living with an eye on heaven allows us to face death knowing that it is not the end, but only the beginning. We know that heaven awaits all who have chosen to follow Jesus Christ. We mourn, but not as those who have no hope. We are saddened for us, but we celebrate for the deceased.

Living with an eye on heaven should affect the way we use our earthly possessions. Will we invest in the things of the world, or will we invest in the things that help others and impact eternity?

Living with an eye on heaven should change our priorities to the point that it affects what we love, what angers us, what brings us joy, what career we choose, how we raise our children, and every other part of our lives.

May we ask God to give us understanding of these things so that we can live with an eye on heaven and know that when this life is over it was truly well spent?

Pastor Tim L. Melton