

Lesson 20 – Eternal Perspective (Living for What Lasts)

Introduction

The Christian life is not only about the present but about eternity. Discipleship prepares us to live with eternal perspective; prioritizing God's Kingdom, valuing eternal rewards, and longing for the day when Christ makes all things new. When we live for what lasts forever, we hold lightly the temporary and live boldly for God's glory. This final lesson reminds us that discipleship ends not with this life but with eternity in the presence of God.

Teaching Session

1. Fix Eyes on the Unseen

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NIV)

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 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, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- Eternal perspective changes how we view trials.
 - What is unseen and eternal outweighs what is temporary and painful.
 - Glory far outweighs the cost.
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2. Set Your Hearts on Things Above

Colossians 3:1–2 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

- Disciples must focus on eternal priorities.
 - The heart (desires) and mind (thoughts) must align with heaven.
 - Identity in Christ shifts our pursuit from earthly gain to eternal treasure.
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3. Citizenship in Heaven

Philippians 3:20–21 (NIV)

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

- Believers are citizens of heaven, not just residents of earth.
 - Our hope is in Christ's return and transformation.
 - Kingdom values should shape daily living.
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4. The Promise of Eternity

Revelation 21:3–4 (NIV)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

- Eternity is not abstract, it is God dwelling with His people.
 - Pain, death, and sorrow will be no more.
 - This is the hope that sustains disciples through suffering.
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5. Living for What Lasts

- Eternal perspective changes priorities; living for souls, not stuff.
 - Invest in people, service, and Kingdom work that carries into eternity.
 - Every choice today echoes in eternity.
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Study & Discussion Questions

1. How does 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 change the way you see trials and difficulties?
2. What does it mean to set your heart and mind on things above?
3. How does living as a citizen of heaven shape your daily life on earth?
4. Which part of Revelation 21:3–4 gives you the most hope?
5. What practical steps can you take to focus more on eternal things and less on temporary ones?

Application & Reflection

- **Memory Verse:** *“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”* (2 Corinthians 4:17, NIV)
- **Personal Reflection:** Write down three areas of your life where you are overly focused on temporary things. Pray and commit them to God, asking for an eternal perspective.
- **Group Activity:** Read Revelation 21:1–5 aloud together. End with a time of worship and thanksgiving, celebrating the eternal hope we share in Christ.