

7-31-22
MESSAGE
A FORMULA FOR PROPERLY INVESTING IN ETERNITY

Yesterday afternoon I shared a message for the grave side memorial service for Arden Hollister. There were quite a few people at the graveside service. When I first came to the church, Arden Hollister, Jack McKeeby, and Selwyn Schmitt were the main deacons of the church. Today they are all in heaven.

A man came up to me at the funeral and introduced himself to me and said do you know who I am.. I said no not really. He was Arden's grandson. I remember Arden bringing him to church with him when he was just 12 - 13 years old. Today he is 50 years old.

Anyway, at the memorial service I preached from Psalm 90:12

Psalms 90:12 So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

This Morning I want to share the message I shared at the memorial service by way of introduction to the message I will be sharing this morning. They both work together.

WISDOM ON HOW TO INVEST IN ETERNITY..

INTRODUCTION TO MESSAGE:

The Bible says,

Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale [that is told].

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years [are] threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength [they be] fourscore years, yet [is] their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Psalms 90:12 So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

I recently looked up the average life expectancy world wide.. is about 72 some countries fair better and some worse. The best countries are average about 80 and the worst under 60. So when the Bible says the days of our years are 70 and if by reason of strength they be 80 yet there is strength, labour, and sorrow that is exactly where we are today. Nothing has changed with all the money we spend on healthcare. Arden died at age 90 .. most people think that is old.

In fact it was Arden Hollister that was instrumental in having the church call me. He called Peter Accardi, about trying to get someone to come and preach and he remembered that I came with Peter and did some special music at one of Peter's

meetings. Peter told Arden that I just graduated from seminary and was available. Arden called me to come to the church and the rest is history. That was 39 years ago and in time that seems like a drop in the bucket...

Psalm 90 verse 12 says:

Psalms 90:12 So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

What does that mean...

The Psalmist is calling out to God for help. He says to God.. Lord TEACH US.. to number our days.

I. Only God can give you this knowledge and wisdom ...

So each of us should ask God for learning.. TEACH US.. to number our days..

There is an urgency about this request. We have limited time to do what we need to do to make preparation for the day when this life will end.

So we need to cry out to God.. Oh God someday this life will come to an end.. teach me what to do with the few days I have left. Teach me.. This kind of knowledge can only come from God.

Without God showing us.. we are in the dark. We will just live our lives as if we will live forever. Most people do nothing to prepare to meet God. We must be taught how to make the most of the days we have on this earth. Unless God teaches us how to live and prepare for eternity we are totally in the dark and will remain in the dark.

In our flesh we cannot know how to prepare for eternity..
In our flesh we are about fleshly, earthly matters..

Unless the Spirit of God enlightens our minds and hearts and teaches us how to live and make preparation for eternity we will be in the dark.

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

Moses says, we need to pray to God to teach us to number our days, and come to the realization that we are mortal and someday we will have to give an account to our creator. You would think this is so obvious.. yet men do not really comprehend this. Look at the way they live.

II. The Psalmist says, teach us to apply Our Hearts To Wisdom

Each of us needs to pray to God for Wisdom...The verse says,

Now having limited days, this we know what does the wise man do with the remaining days he has left on this earth.

Psalms 90:12 So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

We need God to help us to apply our hearts to Wisdom.

So knowing you have limited days.. life is short. We need to cry out to God for him to teach us how to apply our hearts to wisdom.

The opposite of wisdom is foolishness. There are many people God called fools in the Bible.

In Luke 12: God called a rich man who invested everything in this life so he could live a life of leisure was called a fool. God said, he was a fool because,

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So [is] he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

A wise man will invest in eternity and seek to be rich towards God.

All investments start when we open an account.. A wise man will open his account in heaven..

We have a lot of people disappointed with their investments in the world markets of our day. Stock prices are down. People are losing money in investments.

The investment that God wants us to make is a sure thing. We will never lose investing in eternity!

It all starts with a heavenly deposit box, or treasure chest..

1. OPEN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN HEAVEN.. BY GIVING HIM YOUR HEART..

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Give him your heart... dedicate your heart to Jesus Christ..

Until you get saved, you cannot even begin to lay up treasure in heaven. You are in debt and your sins need to be paid for. So laying up treasure in heaven must start when you give your heart to the Lord..

Romans 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, [even] in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

So the first thing we need God to teach us is how to come to him. Unless God teaches us this we will be in the dark.

The Bible says, no man can come to the father..

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Moses prayed.. OH GOD TEACH US.. TEACH US .. to number our days..

It amazes me how many people could be at death's door. How many people are getting up in age and it never occurs to them, they are getting older and do not even give it a thought. I tell the story of how when I was 21 years old I started learning how to tune pianos from a man who was 82 years old. He had just suffered a heart attack and he could not understand why in the prime of his life he was having health problems. How is it that it never hits home that we are getting old. We never seem to pull it together that God is giving us notice that our time is nearing the end. We just never pull it together. So God needs to teach us this truth.

GOD ALONE NEEDS TO TEACH US.. This is what Moses meant.

In our flesh when it comes to eternal matters we are like a base animal trying to learn to read and write. We are ignorant to the fact that we are mortal. We just don't piece it together.. WE NEED TO BE TAUGHT.. Teach us.. each us.. the psalmist says..

2. The second thing wisdom should teach you is to invest in eternity..

After you realize your days are numbered.. next you need to come to the realization that you need to hurry up and start putting something away for eternity. Make some investments for eternity..

The wisest man that ever lived besides Jesus was Solomon

Solomon in musing over his accomplishments in this life said this..

Ecclesiastes 12:8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all [is] vanity.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil.

Psalms 90:12 So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

Wisdom would dictate that after you give your heart to the Lord you should invest in eternity.

The Bible says that God will someday bring every work into judgment whether it is good or bad. Only those things done in obedience to God and his word will last. Everything else will be burned up.

There is a song that goes something like this..

Only one life and soon it will past..

Only what's done for Christ will last..

Only one Chance to do his will

So give to Jesus all your days

It's the only life that pays

When you recall you have but one life..

So the psalmist said,

Psalms 90:12 So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

Yesterday when we had the memorial service for Arden Hollister I reminded everyone present that every time we attend a funeral we should be reminded that we are mortal. When we attend a funeral we are reminded of the brevity of life. Our days are numbered. Though I say this.. yet for most people it really does not hit home. We need to pray that prayer of Psalm 90:12

Psalms 90:12 So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

Usually at a graveside service we traditionally read I Thess 4:13.. the resurrection passage.. What a glorious promise we have for those who love God and have given their hearts to Jesus Christ. We are promised a new body.. a heavenly body.. an incorruptible body.

3. WISDOM SHOULD TEACH US THAT THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION SHOULD GIVE US HOPE AND SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO BEYOND THE GRAVE..

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

According to the Bible this is our blessed hope. We have hope in the resurrection. The Bible says if in this life only we have hope we are of all men most miserable. In fact those who believe this live only live to eat drink and be merry because tomorrow when death comes all is gone for them. All is lost..

So the Psalmist says,

Psalms 90:12 So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

Teach us .. Teach us to apply our hearts to wisdom.. That wisdom dictates that we should love the Lord and eternal things more than the gain of this world. There are very few people that really believe that and understand that. Jesus called those who live for this world only.. fools. "Thou Fool" the Lord said. God promises us a resurrected body.. a body that will never deteriorate, never die. Invest in that life and future..

A great missionary once said..

"No man is a fool who gives up that which he cannot keep for that which he shall never lose.."

Now this was the introduction to the message I would like to share..

HOW DO WE INVEST IN ETERNITY..

Jesus gave us principles of spiritual wisdom on how to live and invest in eternity. We find this admonition in Matthew Chapter 6:

NOW WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES..
HOW DO I MAKE INVESTMENTS FOR ETERNITY..
HOW DO I LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN..

Knowing our days are numbered..

Knowing we have but a short time to live..

We need to pray for wisdom on how to order our lives so we can invest in eternal rewards..

In Matthew chapter 6: verses 19 through 34 the Lord taught how we can lay up treasure in heaven..

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Matthew 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great [is] that darkness!

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.

I. TAKE HEED WHAT YOU TREASURE

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

WHAT YOU TREASURE IS WHERE YOUR HEART WILL BE
WHERE YOUR HEART IS IS WHERE YOUR INVESTMENTS WILL BE ...
SHOW ME A MAN'S TREASURE AND YOU WILL SEE HIS HEART...

1. WHERE YOUR HEART IS... THAT'S WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS....

YOUR HEART DETERMINES WHAT YOU TREASURE.....

What is interesting is that:

One man's trash is another man's treasure... or

One man's treasure is another man's trash...

What we value is relative to what we desire and give worth to...

Indians with glass jewelry often traded their gold for it...

The gold was more common to them than the glass colored beads..

The attributes of the so-thought-of 'common' glass bead held important cultural associations for many Natives: the form resembling a seed or berry, the clarity and hardness of natural crystalline minerals, the polished surface reflective like water, not to mention the associations of certain colors. Working under French direction, in 1524, Verrazzano's confusion is demonstrated: "They do not value gold because of its color; they think it the most worthless of all, and rate blue and red above all other colors... the same was true for metals like steel and iron, for many times when we showed them some of our arms, they did not admire them, nor ask for them, but merely examined the workmanship", and further "The things we gave them that they prized the most were little bells, blue crystals, and other trinkets to put in the ear or around the neck"

So it is that what we treasure in this life are like trinkets and glass jewelry compared to eternal things. Be careful you don't despise what God treasures. Most people look at heavenly gold as worthless..

So often base carnal people despise the true spiritual treasures.. Church, God's word.. preaching and teaching of the things of God... etc....

What makes some things treasurable?

Why is it that some people like what they like?

Myself with Peanut Butter.. I ate too much of it when I was a kid and I got sick on it. So now I hate it. What I once loved I now despise..

We despise what is common or every day or we have had too much of..

The reason we are not experiencing revival in this country today is because we do not give proper value to spiritual treasure and godliness..

Maybe we have had it too good in America today we take our spiritual blessings for granted..

Realize God makes his presence precious and unique, not common.

If you really want to get close to God you need to work at it..

Takes much prayer...

Takes fasting and prayer..

Takes Bible reading and Memorization and meditation...

Concerning the word of God the psalmist writes:

Psalms 19:10 More to be desired [are they] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Can you think of some things that you could care less if you had.... Why could you care less about these things?

WHERE YOUR HEART IS THERE WILL BE YOUR TREASURE:

Bible says to guard your heart.....

Don't let the word of God become common and ordinary to you...

Carlton with placing anything on top of his Bible...

These type of habits are good...

Treasure the word of God don't let it become too common

Don't make it mundane and ordinary.... Don't let it fall to the ground!

2. WHAT YOU TREASURE IS WHERE YOUR HEART WILL BE:

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Talking to missionary...

Darrell Champlin... WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF REAL...

Real Estate...

That which lasts...

Nothing we have in this world will last...

We need to realize that everything is breaking down and breaking
Falling apart...

Vehicles..

Houses....

Bodies.... Anna... Multiple Sclerosis.... 27 years old ...

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

II. TAKE HEED WHAT YOU LOOK AT, IT WILL AFFECT YOUR HEART WHICH WILL AFFECT WHAT YOU VALUE

YOUR EYES FEED YOUR HEART:

Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Matthew 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great [is] that darkness!

Luke 11:34 The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when [thine eye] is evil, thy body also [is] full of darkness.

Luke 11:35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

Luke 11:36 If thy whole body therefore [be] full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Our life is feed spiritually by our eyes.....

First sin: Involved the eyes: and looking too long at that which is forbidden....

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

She sinned by looking first...

David with Bathsheba: II Samuel 11:2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman [was] very beautiful to look upon.

Every man that commits adultery, I'll guarantee you started with a problem of looking at women with a lustful eye....

This is why marriages are so weak.... Our society promotes pornography... and wonders why adultery and fornication can't be stopped....

If we are going to invest in eternity we need to guard what we let our eyes watch.....

Greatest hinderance to spiritual purity is T.V. media, movies, Hollywood..
TAKE HEED THAT THE LIGHT THAT IS IN YOU BE NOT DARKNESS.....

This is why ladies should avoid dressing in such a way that would entice men to look at them improperly....

We feed our heart with our eyes..

No man can cleanse his heart until he masters what he looks at and how he looks at things...

When we view things with the tinted glasses of lust and evil then we will fill our lives with darkness and evil

If we view things with the tinted glasses of the word of God than our eye will be single and pure....

THE BIBLE SAYS:

Luke 11:35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

No one can properly invest in eternity and prepare for eternity unless he/she controls and limits what they gaze at.....

We need to guard our eyes...

Some things that we need to avoid looking at:

Nakedness, forbidden things, useless things, wrong entertainment, avoid viewing things that make light of sin and God's people, reading wrong materials, viewing wrong

T.V. shows.. which promote promiscuity, adultery, fornication, nakedness, cursing etc.... Today the world has gone a step further.. TV shows seems to be promoting homosexuality and sodomy as normal.

III. WE PREPARE AND INVEST IN ETERNITY BY TAKING HEED WHO YOU SERVE (We Can Only Serve One Lord and Master)

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mammon comes from the Aramaic or Syriac word, Mamona which signifies "Wealth or Profit...."

"EGOCENTRIC COVETOUSNESS WHICH CLAIMS THE HEART OF MAN...."
Gain of this world..... LUST EYES, FLESH PRIDE OF LIFE... = MAMMON

Medieval writers commonly interpreted it as an evil demon or god. Since the 16th century, mammon has been used to negatively describe the pursuit of wealth and has been used in both religious and secular contexts.

Why do we work hard, is it not to please Christ?
We do not work hard to gain wealth and profit in this world...

We work to please Christ and he gives us the rewards of our labour... and provides for us....

NO ONE CAN INVEST IN ETERNITY WITHOUT SACRIFICING SOMETHING IN THIS WORLD....

MAMMON CAN BE ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT YOU TREASURE MORE THAN OBEYING CHRIST AND HIS WORD.....

DO YOU WORK FOR GAIN IN THIS WORLD
OR
DO YOU WORK FOR CHRIST?

IS YOUR GOAL IN LIFE TO EARN MONEY AND BE RICH
or

IS YOUR GOAL IN LIFE TO SERVE CHRIST AND WATCH HIM PROVIDE YOUR NEEDS THROUGH BEING A GOOD EXAMPLE AND OBEYING THE COMMAND IN THE BIBLE TO:

The Apostle Paul gave the clear biblical teaching concerning why a christian should work..

I Thessalonians 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

I Thessalonians 4:12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and [that] ye may have lack of nothing.

II Thessalonians 3:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

II Thessalonians 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

II Thessalonians 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

II Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

WHEN WE WORK WE DO NOT SERVE MAMMON

WHEN WE WORK WE ARE IN THE SERVICE OF THE KING OF KINGS AND OBEYING HIM....

WE ARE BEING OBEDIENT TO THE BIBLICAL COMMAND ..

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON!

So everything you do to serve mammon will go up in smoke....

IV. TAKE HEED HOW YOU THINK AND WHAT YOU MEDITATE ON

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

1. BE CAREFUL THAT YOU ARE NOT CONSUMED WITH THE NECESSITIES OF THIS LIFE:

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

When we have to live our lives in such a way that we are continually worried about taking care of our necessities, then we are not living the life that the Lord wants us to live...

This is a rebuke to those who have an inordinate care for the necessities of life....

2. JESUS GIVES ILLUSTRATIONS OF NATURE TO HELP US IN THIS AREA:

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

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Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

A. BEHOLD THE FOWLS OF THE AIR: ARE YOU NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THEY ARE:

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Why do we think that our life is in our own hands...

Why do we think that it is our own labor that provides for our needs...

We work to obey Christ...

We do not work because God cannot provide for us apart from work...

The birds of the field are an example of this....

Doesn't matter how much money you make you're always just barely getting by it seems....

B. CONSIDER YOUR INABILITY TO CONTROL YOUR OWN GROWTH

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

The most important things of this life we are absolutely helpless to control..... Our physical well being..

Growth.... Self in 5th 6th grade...

Something happened in 7th grade... I was in the land of the giants and suddenly I got short..

What is the lesson Jesus is trying to teach us..

He is trying to say.... learn the lesson on how to be content with what God has done in your life... Why will you frustrate yourself with things you cannot change....

C. CONSIDER AND MEDITATE ON THE GLORY OF THE GRASS AND LILLIES AND TREES

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith?

Viewing the trees they are alive they do not struggle..

They are not in turmoil..

They grow and prosper by the hand of God...

So too the lilies, the grass etc....

In the old testament when God's people made an altar they were forbidden to use any human cut stones..

So let us not try to offer to God things we conjure up in the flesh...

All human efforts are temporary...

All our human works are corrupt...

Think... God made the world and it maintains itself..

Everything we make we have to maintain...

The greater works are the works of God...

You build a house... the day after it is built things start getting older and falling apart....

You buy a new truck: all miles he puts on it soon it is worthless.

We need to learn to the lesson of Solomon...

He built great cities he had great riches and after all that he did he looked at it all and said everything is vanity and vexation of spirit....

WHERE ARE THE GREAT BUILDINGS OF SOLOMON
WHERE IS THE WEALTH OF SOLOMON?
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS STILL WITH US TODAY...

THE BEAUTY OF THE LILLIES...
THE BEAUTY OF THE GRASS AND TREES....
GOD STILL FEEDS THE FOWLS OF THE AIR...

***D. LEARN THE LESSON WELL THAT YOU ARE POWERLESS TO CONTROL
EVEN THE MOST
BASIC ELEMENTS OF YOUR LIFE AND EXISTENCE***

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

It is God who controls the food supplies..
It is God who controls the weather..

How stupid we are.. do we think we can control global warming.. we can't even control local flooding. Do people stop and think how much bigger the feat would be to control global warming.. It should be easier to control local flooding?

What are we crazy? If I were to tell people that burning fossil fuels is what is causing flooding.. people would laugh you to scorn. People would say we have no control over that.. it's too complex.

Everyone would know that is impossible besides our experiments would all fail.

But let our experts tell us that burning fossil fuels are causing global warming and everyone bows down and says.. Oh that makes sense. Make the numbers big enough to hide the unscientific absurdity of our theory and away we go every one bows down to the so called scientific gurus.

In the name of science men tell you for a fact the human race has evolved over millions of years.. yet no one was around millions of years ago..

In the name of science men tell you that we can control climate change by eliminating burning fossil fuels.. yet we can't even control our local climate change for man's betterment. It would be like someone who can't pay their mortgage telling you they know how to balance our national debt.

WHAT ARE WE CRAZY.. HAVE WE LOST ALL COMMON SENSE..

Joseph Goebbels said,

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victim to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation..

The reason gas prices are \$5.00 a gallon is because people have believed the big lie that we can control global warming by doing away with burning fossil fuels.. Russia and China are laughing at us..

The reason our children are behaving like animals in our public schools is because they are being taught a big lie.. They are being told they are nothing but animals in the grand scheme of evolution. We are no longer creations of God almighty.. Our leaders in our school are promoting the big lie..

Our leaders are telling a big lie.. and leading us into confusion. We are being told that a person can choose their gender. Someone could be born with male parts but really identify as a female.. a person could be born with female parts but really identify as a male. So men have been told a big lie and everyone is acting like this is ok!

Take heed what you think....

God knows our thoughts and when we fail to trust him we will find ourselves worrying and fretting about things that we are powerless to change and only he can control.

V. WE INVEST IN ETERNITY BY TAKING HEED TO WHAT YOU SEEK

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.

Seek first the Kingdom of God....

What is our heartbeat in life?

What are we pressing towards?

What is our ambition and desire?

It should be the pursuit of the Kingdom of God...

SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD....

We are citizens of a heavenly Kingdom.....

1. HOW DO WE SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD FIRST?

Matthew Henry puts it this way

"THE BEST WAY TO BE COMFORTABLY PROVIDED FOR IN THIS WORLD IS TO BE MOST INTENT UPON ANOTHER WORLD....."

A. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE TRULLY HEAVENLY MINDED WILL INDEED BE EARTHLY GOOD.... HEAVEN IS OUR DESTINATION NOT THIS EARTH....

B. WE NEED TO BE LEARNING THINGS THAT WILL HELP PREPARE US TO BE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN....

PRINCIPLES OF HOLINESS...

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL LAW...

THE ATTRIBUTES AND CHARACTER OF GOD

THINGS THAT PLEASE AND DISPLEASE GOD....

I Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

I Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

I Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

I Corinthians 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

I Corinthians 6:5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

Psalms 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalms 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Someday we will be greater than the angels...

MY WIFE AND I WERE AT THE AIR SHOW.. The highlight of the show was when the Stealth Bomber was going to pass over... Then there was an announcement that he couldn't make a second pass He was afraid he would run out of fuel...

Just then a bird flew by and I said to my wife notice how God designed that bird with greater engineering ability... When it needs fuel it stops and picks up a worm....

Someday I will be able to fly... God will give me wings like the angels.

Jesus was taken up to heaven

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [also] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

I will have a body that will be able to live in outer space as well as on earth.....

I will have a body that can explore the depths of the seas if I so desire....

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light [was] like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Revelation 21:12 And had a wall great and high, [and] had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are [the names] of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Revelation 21:13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

Revelation 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

Revelation 21:16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

Revelation 21:17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred [and] forty [and] four cubits, [according to] the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

Revelation 21:18 And the building of the wall of it was [of] jasper: and the city [was] pure gold, like unto clear glass.

Revelation 21:19 And the foundations of the wall of the city [were] garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation [was] jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

Revelation 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

Revelation 21:21 And the twelve gates [were] twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city [was] pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof.

Revelation 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

Certainly it is glorious thing to see New York City all light up at night but the New Jerusalem will make this look like the ghetto

Conclusion

Jesus taught us how to lay up treasure in heaven. Let us invest in eternity. God give us the wisdom to order our lives in such a manner that we will have eternal treasure in that day.

Paul had such great boldness at the end of his life that he wrote this:

II Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

How did he have such boldness? He had it because he was fighting the fight.. he was sacrificing..

Can a soldier deny he is a soldier when the bullets are flying over head. While he is in the fox hole fighting the fight.. While he is suffering to serve his King. No.. there is no time to doubt. Paul had such boldness because of the things he suffered to serve the Lord. One of the reasons people doubt their salvation is because they are not in the fight. They are on the sidelines viewing the battle from afar off. They are not in the foxhole fighting the battle themselves. No soldier can doubt he is a soldier while he is suffering for the cause. No soldier doubts he is a soldier while he is under attack by the enemy.

God give us this boldness also.

II Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.