

It's all gonna burn!

Slide Notes

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It's All Gonna Burn!

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,*

— 2 Peter 3:10-12

This was a popular expression during the 70's Jesus Movement/Revival. Helped us keep an eternal perspective on the things that tended to draw our attention away from the Father's business.

Look around, everything you see will pass away—except for the people (their spirit man). One day, even your worst problems will pass away—that is as long as you belong to Jesus.

That realization must be allowed to change the way we live our lives! What manner of people should we be? Those with a godly, eternal perspective who live their lives to please the One who loves and died for them. Not to just please ourselves.

A Balanced Focus

But let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: The time that remains is very short. So from now on, those with wives should not focus only on their marriage. Those who weep or who rejoice or who buy things should not be absorbed by their weeping or their joy or their possessions. Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away. — 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Don't become overly attached to the joys or pains of this world. Don't let possession possess you! We must invest in things that will last for eternity. This is not saying that we won't have weeping, joy, or possessions. But everything must be weighed in the context of eternity.

In our modern culture, we often love things and use people. That's backwards. We need to learn to love people and use things to help them. That is not an excuse to abuse the world or the things in it. But we must get things in proper balance.

Unseen Will Last Forever

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

— 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

We never give up because, "We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to Himself together with you." (4:14)

How often do we fall apart when something bad happens? Cancer, death of a loved one, a spouse or child going astray... We fall apart because we do not have an eternal perspective. We may talk a good story, but we don't believe it down deep. That's got to change!

In context of eternity, a lifetime is relatively short. Even our most intense troubles in this life become small and short when viewed in the context of eternity.

When we focus our gaze on eternity, then we find the strength to endure and overcome the troubles in this life.

This Is Not Our Home

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

— Hebrews 11:13-16

We expend a great deal of effort to make this life a great place to be. But it was never meant to be our home!

We are ambassadors in a hostile country. Our citizenship is in heaven. We are only passing through.

Trouble with Joy

Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

— Hebrews 10:32-36

Imagine the government soldiers coming to your door and taking everything. How could the people mentioned by Paul accept this with joy? You cannot do these kinds of things without a solid focus on the eternal Kingdom of God.

These people were joyfully willing to yield their own comfort, benefits, rights, and pleasures for bringing other people into the Kingdom of God. They knew that their hope was in the resurrection and a new, eternal Kingdom.

We must see the story of our individual lives in the context of God's bigger story. This will provide the direction and motivation we need for the choices that face us day to day. You have a critical part to play in God's overall story. No one else can play your part. If you don't do it, it won't happen.

Peace in Jesus

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. — John 14:27

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

— John 16:33

Jesus didn't just leave you to tough out the problems. "Woe is me!" "I'm just suffering for the Kingdom." No! He has given us peace which the world cannot take away. And He has overcome the world along with its problems. That's why we can rejoice in the midst of

trouble here. When you have God's peace—that depends on Jesus, not circumstances—you can handle anything.

Paul's Attitude

For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

— Philippians 1:21-24

Paul had a good focus on the eternal Kingdom. He longed to go be with Jesus. That is Paul's home. But he knew that others would be brought into God's family through his work on earth. So Paul was willing to stay here a little longer. And his life is still bearing much fruit that is increasing the Kingdom of God daily.

A Smart Exchange

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

Missionary Jim Elliot's journal entry a few weeks before killed by those he was seeking to reach.

Journal Entry for October 28, 1949. Jim Elliot invested his life—which he could not perpetuate—to gain brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of God along with joy in the Lord. It was a good trade.

Movie: *The End of the Spear*. In 1956, five American missionaries to Ecuador were brutally speared to death by a savage Stone Age tribe of Indians. Two years later, the wife and sister of two of the murdered missionaries walked into the jungle to live with the same people who had murdered the men they loved. That tribe of Indians came to know the Lord as a result.

What is it that you cannot keep?

What is it that you cannot lose?

The reverse is also true. You are a fool to lose what is eternal by refusing to give up that which you cannot keep.

So Where is Your Treasure?

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. — Matthew 6:19-21

If problems and issues easily shake you, it is time to check your vision. What are you focused on? When eternity is our focus, things in this life cannot easily shake you. What are some treasures that people have?

Treasures on Earth

- Homes
- Cars
- Savings
- Toys
- Clothes
- Entertainment
- Fancy food and drink
- Etc.

We need many of those things, but we don’t need to make them our treasures.

You can tell what you treasure most by looking in your check book (where you spend your money) and your calendar (where you spend your time and talents).

You can tell where your treasure is by looking at where your heart is.

Treasures in Heaven – People!

- People’s lives – salvations
- Loving with God’s love [even the unlovely]
- God honoring relationships [serving, not abuse or use]
- Listening with true care [value the other person]

- Scriptural encouragement of others [not just your opinions]
- Speaking God's truth [encourage, teach, exhort]

These take many forms, but all invest in God's eternal Kingdom. They are skills that you can and should develop.

Remembering that "It's all gonna burn" can help you stay focused on those things that won't burn up and keep a proper attitude toward those things that will pass away.

Make it Real!

- Regularly ask yourself... "Which Kingdom does this invest in?"
- Don't beat yourself up for bad investments
- Take steps to make better choices
- Ask the Lord to open your eyes
- Learn to love and value people
- Grow in love for Jesus

It is individual for each person, and is a process that operates every minute of every day in the choices we make.

But these general things can help you along the way

Love motivated Jesus to die for you. Love for Him and the people He died to save must be your motivation.

It's a daily process. Each decision you make invests in eternity or in that which will burn up. Work to daily improve your track record.

I remind myself regularly what Peter said—it's all gonna burn! Not in a fatalistic way, but as a reminder that only a few things will last for eternity. That's where I want to invest my life!