**Eternal Perspective**

**Colossians 3:1-2**

In light of our position in Christ, being with Him in the heavenly places, what does Paul exhort us to do and not do?

1. Keep seeking the things above

2. Set your mind on the things above

3. Don’t set your mind on earthly things

**Why does Paul urge us to focus on things above?**

1. Things above are eternal. God is eternal and our relationship with Him is the only relationship that will last forever. (John 10:27-30) Souls of men and women are eternal – all people will spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell. (John 3:16-18,36; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Thes. 1:5-12 ) His Word will never pass away. (Matt. 5:17-18) The writings of every other teacher or philosopher will fade away, but the wisdom of God in Scripture will remain forever.

2. Because Jesus taught that He was coming back and that we should always be ready and looking for His coming (Matt. 24-25). He will give out rewards to us for faithful service, and in fact, His expectation is that we will be faithful in using what He has entrusted to us.

Colossians 3:2

Why are we not to set our minds on earthly things? Because earthly things are temporal – they won’t last. Our life here on earth is so brief and is passing away. Consider these verses:

**James 4:13-14**

**1 John 2:15-17**

**Matt. 6:19-24**

**Phil. 3:17-20**

Consider a line representing eternity – infinite in both directions – how would you represent your 70 years on earth on that line?

We must consider how we will invest our lives – for the dot or for eternity?

Colossians 3:3-4

Because we are totally identified with Christ - actually hidden - we are secure in Him, belong to Him, are protected in Him, and also suffer with Him. But one day we will also be glorified with Him.

Consider these three future things we can look forward to:

1. We will share in His glory. When He is exalted and honored, when every knee bows to acknowledge He is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11), we, as saints, will also share in His glory and be honored with Him.

2. This future reality of glory helps us endure suffering in the present. Paul spoke of this clearly in Rom. 8:18 and 2 Cor. 4:17. He speaks of an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison – the joys and pleasures of Heaven, seeing the Lord face to face, no more sin, pain, or death.

3. We will receive actual rewards at the Judgment seat of Christ – rewards for faithful service (2 Cor. 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 4:5, Matt. 25:14-30).The rewards that Scripture indicates seem to be:

We will reign with Christ in His coming kingdom.

We will receive crowns that we can throw back at His feet to express our gratitude for what He has done for us.

Personal praise from Jesus for being faithful servants.

**1. Where are you setting your mind at this time in your life? Why? Why is it so difficult to keep our mind on things above?**

**2. Are you living for the dot or the line?**

**3. Are there any changes you need to make to live more for eternity in your everyday life? Changes in what you value? Changes in how you spend your time? Changes in your priorities?**

**4. When you look back on your life, what things will you want to have accomplished or been true of you?**

**5. What do you want to be on your tombstone?**

**6. How can even the temporal things we do be done in such a way as to gain eternal reward?**