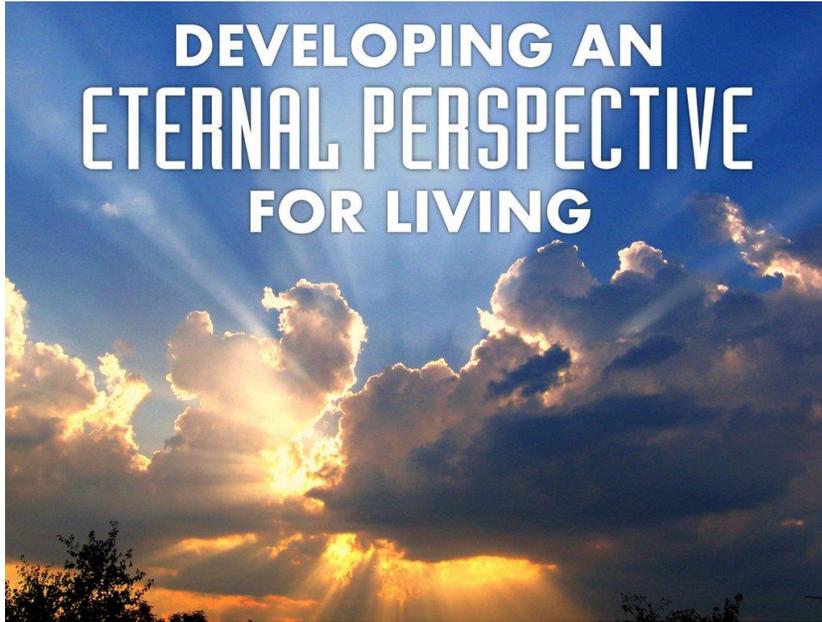


**Daily Life with Christ-55. New Year Special 2018 (Part 3): Five philosophy of life/time perspectives.**



As the new year approaches, it is an excellent time to examine our perspectives on our ultimate and certain future that follows this temporal life. There can be no doubt that our long-term philosophy of life not only has consequences for 2018, they have eternal ramifications. There are at least five options open to us.

First, there is the temporal perspective. This is the default viewpoint of unbelievers. This philosophy of life is only concerned with the here and now. If there is any thought of one's mortality and evaluation before God, it is usually and quickly suppressed. Unbelievers, non-Christians, who live in the temporal perspective will end their lives as eternal losers. They are losers because they will eventually lose everything they value, given that all temporal things are just that. Either the temporal things will be taken from them, or they will be taken from the temporal things at death. They will lose everything. All those things that brought temporal happiness will end in the grave: wife, husband, children, parents, family member, friends, wealth, and all enjoyable hobbies. For the unbeliever, it will end like a bad dream with a total, eternal, and irretrievable loss. The only hope for the unbeliever is to become a believer, be regenerated, by faith alone in Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 16:31).

As far as believers who live for the temporal order, while they cannot lose their salvation, they can make themselves temporal enemies of God (1 John 2:15-16; James 4:4), enemies of the Cross of Christ (τοὺς ἐχθροὺς τοῦ σταυροῦ τοῦ χριστοῦ, Philip. 3:18). They will lose rewards/privileges on the New Earth (2 John 1:8; 1 Cor. 9:24-27), and experience great shame at the Judgement Seat of Christ for a wasted life (1 John 2:28; 1 Cor. 3:14-15). While it is common for Christians to say they do not care about rewards and privileges in Heaven, such an attitude reflects an apathy that is already in the process of destroying their spiritual lives. Besides the loss of privileges in Heaven, the believer who does not live in the eternal perspective will live for this

world, and thus will be overcome by sin, evil, Mammonism, and frustration. One cannot serve God and Mammon (Matt 6:24; 1 John 2:15-16).

The second option includes God in one's philosophy of life. However, the focus is still on this temporal life. This is the believer who believes in God and even believes that God is the source of goodness in life. However, this believer seeks to find meaning and purpose in this temporal order and thus attempts to find happiness in the wealth, entertainment, fame, and power of this life. The best illustration of this is King Solomon; read Ecclesiastes 1-2—note the references to God alongside the vanity of it all because all is evaluated on the basis of the temporal life.

The third option can be called the "USE-God-to-make-my-temporal-life-better philosophy." This perspective is still all about the here and now. It differs from the former view in that it elicits help from God. In other words, the only or main reason, this person calls on God is for temporal reasons—e.g., to help one cope with and have success in this life. To put it bluntly, the only reason this person "worships" God is for the temporal goodies that God can provide. For this Christian, it is ALL about God solving the problems of life and providing "grace blessings." There is little to no appreciation of God for who and what He is. This attitude can be seen in Satan who told God that the only reason that believers worship Him is because He pays them to do it—He gives them protection and temporal goodies (Job 1:10-11). This is not true love of God; it contains no real desire to be with Him in the New Heavens and the New Earth. It is more like relationship with a prostitute wherein the believer will love God as long as God pays him off with protection and goodies. In sum, this perspective is like the previous view with God—but now God is included for gaining more goodies. Consider what Paul said about those who have a relationship with Jesus Christ that is only oriented to this life: 1 Corinthians 15:19, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." With this in mind, consider how common this pitiable condition is today among believers who use the Lord Jesus Christ to feather their beds, as giant good luck charm—with no thought or anticipation of the next life on the New Earth.

The fourth view is what I will call the Christo-platonic view. In this view the believer has a decent relationship with God, but when he thinks of future life with Him, he thinks of future with Him as an ethereal life in the sky with a face-to-face relationship with God, or on the clouds playing songs of praise to Him on a harp. This believer has little to no appreciation for the fact that Christians will be living on the New Earth, enjoying very human lives in houses, cities, nations, and involved in a great many human activities albeit in their resurrected bodies. It is not difficult to see how this ether-like existence is too abstract to provide great motivation in this life—it is simply too out there, too different from our true human natures.

The fifth view is the biblical view, the whole truth, total truth view. I will expand on this view in the next essay. In the meantime, here are a few explicit passages:

2 Peter 3:13, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

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."

Mark 10:29, "So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 "who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time-- houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions-- and in the age to come, eternal life."

2 Timothy 2:12, "If we endure, We shall also reign with Him."

The bottom line in the biblical view is that God will make right the injustices in this world. For example, faithful believers who are now suffering financially, physically, socially, and politically because of their stand for Christ, will be rewarded by Him on the future New Earth financially, physically, socially, and politically (e.g., he will rule over many cities).

For His Glory,

Pastor Don