

REFOCUS

Recapturing an Eternal Vision

This morning we studied 2 Peter 3 and asked this question: "Knowing that everything on earth will be dissolved. What is the best investment of my time, talent, and resources?" This evening our goal is to discover practically how to biblically refocus our lives on the eternal.

Our Text: Ephesians 5:1-17

The Background:

Paul in Ephesians 5:1 sets up the focus of our Christian life. Our focus is to be a follower of God. In the following verses, Peter begins to explain to us some things that would hinder that focus.

- Ephesians 5:2-5 covers sins that would destroy us.
- Ephesians 5:6-10 deals with issues that could deceive us.
- Ephesians 5:11-14 reveals actions that may distract us.

The Process

Paul in Ephesians 5:15-17 provides a clear practical path to spiritually refocus.

Three disciplines that help maintain an eternal focus.

1. Walk Circumspectly

circumspect: cautious; prudent; watchful on all sides

I will make decisions considering my destination not just by default. (Proverbs 14:5)

Proverbs 14:5

The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

2. Redeem the Time

redeem: to buy up; rescue from loss

Most of us spend too much time on what is urgent and not enough time on what is important. - Stephen Covey

"What is important is seldom urgent, and what is urgent is seldom important." -Dwight Eisenhower

I will distribute my time by God's design not by default. (Luke 10:38-42)

Luke 10:38-42

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

3. Understand God's Will

understand: to put together mentally; to comprehend; to consider

I will discipline my desires to reflect my devotion to God not just my default desires.
(2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.