

Renewing Our Perspective

- Ron Stullenbarger -

This life is like a gust of wind, strong and tangible, but as fleeting as it is real. In this life we have incredibly important things to do and little time to do them. So, to truly live life to the fullest as God desires for us, we need a clear understanding of how fleeting and important our lives are. We need a renewal of perspective.

1 John 2:17 says, *"The world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."* God has a work for you and a will for your life. Your abilities, mind, heart, and hands are important to Him. Ephesians 2:10 says, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* Every day you have the choice to surrender your life to the lordship of Jesus and follow the guidance of His Spirit. Or, you can choose to go through life being your own boss, making decisions and plans on your own without His guidance. Only one choice will lead you to a life spent co-laboring with God. Only one choice will assure you at the end of your days that you made a deep and lasting impact with your life.

There isn't enough time to waste any part of your life pursuing the things of the world. There aren't enough days to spend even a single one building your kingdom instead of God's. And your life will be measured by the way in which you loved God and others, not by the weight of your possessions, accolades, or status. Jesus commands us in Matthew 6:19-21, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Jesus illustrates an often missed point here: the value of your life is your heart. God is the Creator of all treasure, of everything beautiful, but His prized possession is your heart. His deepest longing is for your affections. He knows that when you give your heart to the world, to pursuing earthly objectives, you will miss out on the peace and purpose of living your life with a constant eternal perspective. Scripture tells us that though we are here on earth, this is not our home. We are called to live here with urgency, maintaining a renewed perspective of our time. Paul writes in Ephesians 5:15-17, *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."* Will you live your life in light of God's will for you or your own? Will you surrender your heart to the Lord every day or will you try to keep one foot in the world and one foot in the kingdom of God?

The choice is entirely up to you. You have both the Holy Spirit and the world vying for your heart. But only God will reward your affections with His own. All you have to do to live fully for God is encounter the love of your heavenly Father each day and live in response to that love by loving him and others. Choose today to live with eternal perspective by loving your heavenly Father and others.