

Wisdom: An Eternal Perspective (Summer Wisdom 2016)

Introduction

- There are times in our lives where thinking about life, death, and eternity wake us up and give us perspective
- One morning in 1888 Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, **awoke to read** his own obituary.
- The obituary was printed as a result of a simple journalistic error. You see, it was Alfred's brother that had died and **the reporter carelessly reported the death** of the wrong brother.
- Any man would be disturbed under the circumstances, but to Alfred the shock was overwhelming because **he saw himself as the world saw him**.
 - The "**Dynamite King**," the great industrialist who had made an immense fortune from explosives. This, as far as the general public was concerned, **was the entire purpose of Alfred's life**.
 - None of his true intentions to break down the barriers that separated men and ideas for peace were recognized or given serious consideration.
 - He was **simply a merchant of death**.
 - And for that alone he would be remembered.
- As he read the obituary with horror, he resolved to make clear to the world the true meaning and purpose of his life. This could be done through the final disposition of his fortune.
- His last will and testament--an endowment of five annual prizes for outstanding contributions in **physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace** (the sixth category of economics was added later)--would be the expression of his life's ideals and ultimately would be why we would remember him. The result was the most valuable of prizes given to those who had done the most for the cause of world peace.
- **It is called today, the "Nobel Peace Prize."**
- Alfred Noble had a wakeup call and found that his perspective was all wrong. He was pursuing the wrong things He had the wrong motivations. So he resolved that day to change his perspective.
- **Is your view eternal or earthly?**
 - Having a heavenly view is not the same as having an eternal view. Heaven starts tomorrow. Eternity began yesterday.

Prov. 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man,

- but its end is the way to **death**.^a

Proverbs 11:4

Eternal Perspectives give us Earthly Priorities (11:4)

- **Perspective #1: Earthly treasure has no benefit in heaven**
 - This is the heart of the proverbs. The issue with the sage is not the rich nor the wealth of the righteous individual
 1. Rather, prov 11:4 speaks against the *profits of the ungodly*.
 - The eternal ROI/interest rate of my earthly things is ZERO
 1. When your only treasure is here and now... you will eventually be disappointed and devastated in the here and now.
 - Driving down the road in BR and on each side of the street were the belongings of those flooded in the storm.
 - If this is treasure.... What hope can I bring?
- **Perspective #2: Heavenly treasure has infinite benefit on the earth**
 - There are things which we can treasure in this life that have eternal value
 1. **Matt. 6:19** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.
 - So what do we treasure?
- "Let things true be preferred to things false, things eternal to things momentary, things useful to things agreeable." (Lucius Lactantius)
 1. Do you treasure the souls of your family, friends, neighbors?
 2. Do you treasure eternal crowns?
 - **2Tim. 4:8** Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.
 - **James 1:12** Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the **crown** of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
 - **He wore the crown of thorns that we may wear an eternal crown.**
- We had the joy of working in 100% humidity in the homes of fellow believers. These individuals

were overjoyed at the hope we brought them. Fay, Bobbie, Dan, Lake Martin Baptist Church

1. My energy spent on me is worth nothing... My energy spent serving the Lord reverberates throughout the universe.

- I can buy a shovel and use it for myself and it have ZERO eternal impact. Here is the beauty of the Gospel. **I can use that same shovel to serve the Lord. And have an eternal impact.**

○ When the flood comes and destroys everything you realize what is truly important (Convo with Michael Dickson) about the lady who was beyond stressed

1. This was her way of saying “now I treasure the important things:

- **Perspective #2: Heavenly treasure has infinite benefit on the earth**

• **Perspective #3: I cannot cut spiritual corners**

○ Proverbs 11:4 attacks not wealth, but ill gained wealth. Those who have cheated, borrowed, swindled, and acted in self-serving ways to gain earthly security, safety, and status.

1. *Here is the spiritual truth: cutting corners today will not help you on the day of wrath.*

○ Here is our temptation: to cut corners to our advantage.

1. If I told you I had a stolen ill gained lottery ticket worth \$1 million would you take it and redeem it?

- This might profit you today... but it will not profit you for eternity

○ Here is our **spiritual temptation**;

1. To cut corners

- We desire instant spiritual gratification. We seek to be lazy spiritual and “let God do all the work”

○ But our spiritual sanctification is a **marathon and not a sprint**.

1. **Phil. 2:12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

2. The only way you achieve instant sanctification and perfection is to meet our maker face to face. Death for the Christian = perfection

○ Here is the process for flood clean up:

1. Remove furniture
2. Remove mud
3. Remove and gut house
4. Dry-spray-dry-spray-dry
5. Build

○ Are you trying to cut spiritual corners?

1. The beauty of the Gospel is that Jesus saves. And He gives us the strength to grind daily in the Spirit.

- If you put the sheetrock back on before the mold goes away.. the mold/sin keeps going

○ There is no ill-gained spiritual benefit. Daily seek the Savior.

○ Believe and Begin each day with Jesus.

1. Beginnig each day with Christ does not guarantee righteousness. But not beginning with Jesus almost certainly means ruin

- **Perspective #4: Judgement, Wrath, Suffering, and Death are real**
 - Proverbs 11:4 points us to the reality of God's wrath
 1. The brokenness and suffering of this world (BR Flood) only magnify the necessity of a Savior.
 - When wrath +God are combined it expresses an overwhelming and complete devastation. God's wrath burns, overflows, and sweeps away everything before it.
 1. **Rev. 20:11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
 - **We will all be judged. Sin leads to wrath... but there is a way that leads to life.**
 - **So how can I be righteous?**
 1. Jesus died an unjust death... to make you just and put you in right standing before the Lord.
 2. Why would Jesus suffer, be ridiculed, and die a grueling death on the cross?
 - Because He has an eternal perspective.
 - Do you believe?
 1. "Eternity to the godly is a day that has no sunset; eternity to the wicked is a night that has no sunrise." (Thomas Watson)
 - Have you confessed?
 - Have you professed?

Conclusion

What do you treasure? We all treasure something.

- May the Lord give us eternal crowns.
 - Will you ask the Lord to give you an eternal perspective today?
- Are you having conversations that echo into eternity?
- Will you ask the Lord to give you eternal conversations this week?
- Are you doing work that benefits eternity?
- Will you ask the Lord to give you strength to serve for eternity this week?

- **Heb 9:27** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, **28** so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Believe → Confess → Profess →

Do you have a Savior Story?

One thing, and only one, in this world has eternity stamped upon it. Feelings pass; resolves and thoughts pass; opinions change. What you have done lasts--lasts in you. Through ages, through eternity, what you have done for Christ, that, and only that, you are. (Fredrick Robertson)

- **You can put your faith in Jesus right were you sit**

- Opportunity to respond publically
 - Come forward
 - Connection card.. we will follow up and encourage you
- "For a small reward, a man will hurry away on a long journey; while for **eternal** life, many will hardly take a single step." (Thomas Kempis)

Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

Notes

Prov. 8:36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love **death.**”

- **Prov. 11:4** Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from **death.**
- The idea of death and life gives proper perspective
 - When the flood comes and destroys everything you realize what is truly important (Convo with Michael Dickson)
 - There are things that we treasure and enjoy in this life that have no value in eternity
 - There are things which we can treasure in this life that have eternal value
- We can have deliverance over death
 - Victory over the grave
 - Healing through misery
- Tarnished not righteous wealth is in view
- God’s wrath is in view, for it is equated with death in verset B and God alone has the power of life and death.
- When wrath +God are combined it expresses an overwhelming and complete devastating. God’s wrath burns, overflows, and sweeps away everything before it.

Prov 10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing,
But righteousness delivers from death.

- **Prov. 11:19** As righteousness *leads* to life, So he who pursues evil *pursues it* to his own **death.**

Our actions lead to live or death

Our actions can lead to our death

The righteous attains life. By contrast, the one who pursues in a chase or hunt evil, due to his inner compulsion attains his death.

Illustrations

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Application

- Work has dignity because it is something that God does and because we do it in God's place, as his
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