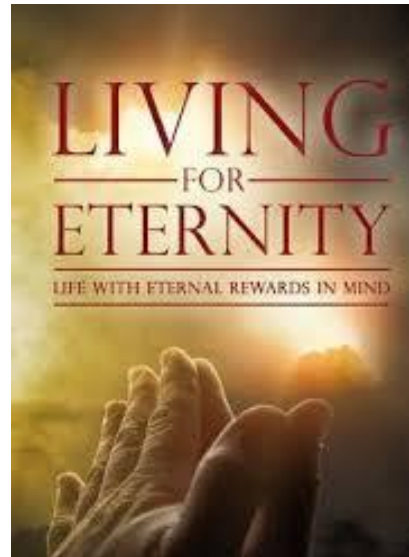


# LIVING WITH ETERNITY IN MIND

Moses in his prayer (Psalm) wrote, “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)



- We have one gift of life to make an eternal difference in the lives of others
- As Christians we are to be in this world but not of it

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”  
(Colossians 3:1-2)**



- Jesus Himself clearly emphasised the importance of living with eternity in mind **when He said**, “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.” **(Matthew 6:19-21)**



- **God's Kingdom values are totally different to the world's way of thinking**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet I shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*” **(Matthew 20:25-28)**



- As Christians we need to ensure that we are never drawn into living like the people of the world.
- Once we have come to Christ the things of this world will never truly satisfy us. We were made to worship God and to be in fellowship with Him



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“And do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your  
mind, that you may prove what is that good and  
acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)**

- The simple fact is that the pull of the world and the expectations of those around us can be very strong. We are now living in the perilous times that the Apostle Paul wrote about.

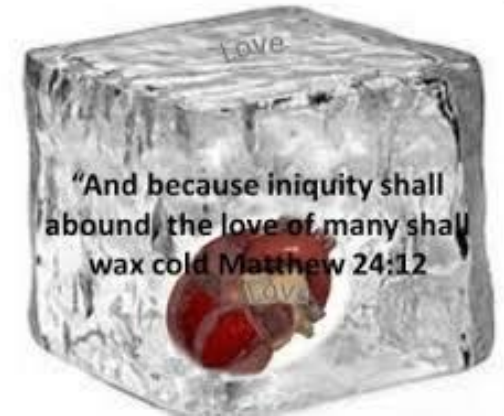


**The Apostle Paul wrote, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)**



- Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in, that because of lawlessness, the love of many would grow cold

**Jesus said,**



**“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13)**

- This is why every day we need to choose to live our lives with eternity in mind

# FIRSTLY WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO CONTINUALLY LIVE WITH ETERNITY IN MIND?

1) It is only when Christ is at the centre of our life that we experience true peace and purpose in life



**In the book of Isaiah we read,**

**“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:3-4)**



**Jesus Himself said,**

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” **(John 14:27)**



**Jesus also said,**

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

2) It is only as we live for the Kingdom Cause that we experience the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of



It is in pursuing God's plan for our life that we experience great purpose and meaning in life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

**(Ephesians 2:10)**

3) It helps us to continually have right priorities in life so that we live in a way that we are truly salt and light in this world. In particular we realize the importance of *using our time wisely*



**The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)**

**It is so important that we continually put the things of the Kingdom first in our life**

- **Having right priorities in life and living a God glorifying life, helps us to be more effective in encouraging others to come to Christ**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they *may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* **(Matthew 5:13-16)**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)**

**“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17)**

**“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” (Colossians 4:6)**

**The way that we live our life and our passion for the things of God, greatly determines the degree to which our lives make an eternal difference in the lives of others**



4) It greatly influences our lifestyle choices as we anticipate the soon coming rapture of true believers

**Jesus Himself said,**

“But take heed to yourselves,

lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” **(Luke 21:34-36)**





5) It greatly influences the way that we relate to others knowing that how we live our lives has both the potential to draw people to Christ or to push them away from coming to Christ

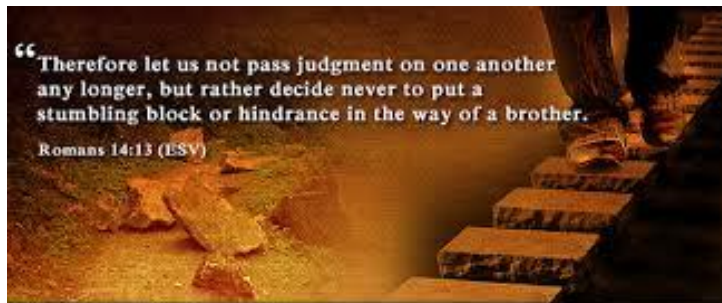


**Jesus Himself said,**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **(John 13:34-35)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ... So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or cause to fall in our brother’s way.” (Romans 14:10, 12-13)**



**The Apostle Peter wrote, “having your conduct honourable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1 Peter 2:12)**



How we relate to others has a big impact on whether or not we encourage people to come to Christ through our own life. When we live our life with eternity in view, we are mindful of how we live our life and relate to others, as we look for opportunities to help people to come to Christ

**6) We are more focused on storing up treasures in heaven than on accumulating possessions here on earth.**



- **We must not be distracted from pursuing the Kingdom Cause by the things of this world**
- It is important that we are rich in good works as we help to see God's Kingdom expanded here on earth. In doing this we will also be storing up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20)
- We have one gift of life to store up treasures in heaven as we help to lead people to Christ and encourage other believers in their Christian walk

- Jesus also made it very clear that if our focus is on living for the Kingdom Cause and storing up treasures in heaven, that we would also never lack anything during our stay here on earth

## **Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**



## 7) It helps to keep our fire and passion for the things of God **ALIVE**



**When we live with eternity in mind our greatest passion is to know Christ intimately**

**King David was a man after God's own heart and Israel's greatest King. He wrote in Psalm 63,**

**"O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You." (Psalm 63:1-3) **AND****



## 8) Because one day Jesus will reward us for our works here on earth



**Jesus Himself said,**

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” **(Matthew 16:27)**

- The fact that each and every believer will one day give an account of his life here on earth gives us the incentive to fully invest our lives for the Kingdom Cause and to be wise stewards of our gifts and talents

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”**

**(2 Corinthians 5:10)**



**How we want to hear when we appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of our life here on earth, the words “well done my good and faithful servant”**

# SO HOW THEN DO WE LIVE OUR LIVES WITH ETERNITY IN MIND?

## 1) We need to have a lifestyle of prayer and involve God in all that we do



- Like never before we need to be intimate in our relationship with the Lord and involve God in all that we do in life
- As life is full of choices we need to continually seek God for His wisdom to make right choices in life

**In the book of James we read,**

**“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)**

**God is always willing to give us the wisdom that we need to do life well and to stay in the will of God for our life. No situation is ever impossible for God**



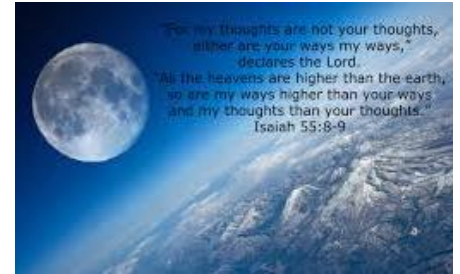
- Prayer helps to involve God in all that we do in life and helps us to live a life without anxiety as we learn to cast our cares upon Him (**1 Peter 5:7**)



**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”  
**(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

- God's ways are higher than our ways.  
His plan for our life is the best



- God knows what is best for us and is able to make a way even where there seems no way, if we are simply prepared to surrender control of our lives to Him

**In the book of Isaiah we read,**

**“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)**



- Having a lifestyle of Prayer helps us to remain strong in our faith (which is crucial given the times that we are now living in) and is a great key to seeing all that God has planned for our life come to pass.



- In fulfilling God's plan for our life, our lives will make a great eternal difference in the lives of many others

**This is why the Apostle Paul wrote, “Pray without ceasing,” (1 Corinthians 5:17)**

**The Apostle Peter wrote, “But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.” (1 Peter 4:7)**

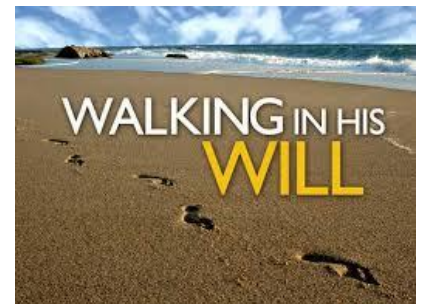
## 2) We need to continually make our relationship with the Lord our greatest priority in life.

- Consistently spending quality time with the Lord is a great key to remaining strong in our faith and to knowing God's will for our life



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**



- Intimacy with the Lord helps to keep our faith vibrant and alive.



- We must purposely make time to spend with the Lord as the Devil will continually try and stop us from spending quality time with Him

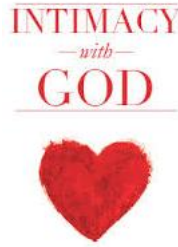


**King David wrote,**

**“You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right  
hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11)**

**Given the lawless times that we are now living in,  
spending quality time with the Lord is a great key  
to continually having a Kingdom focus in life**

**King David also wrote, “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)**



- Those who have an intimate relationship with the Lord will also gain His heart and compassion for the lost and have a great desire to make a big difference in this world for eternity.



**In the book of Daniel we read,  
“...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.” (Daniel 11:32)**

### 3) We need to continually choose to walk in love and forgiveness towards all people

- It is by our love for one another that people will know that we are Christ's disciples

**Jesus Himself said,**



**“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)**

- Jesus continually emphasised the importance of loving others, even our enemies



**Jesus said to His disciples, “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.” (Luke 6:27-28)**

- For Christians this is possible “...Because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us,” (Romans 5:5). We must simply just continually CHOOSE to love all people as the bible instructs us to do so.

- We must simply refuse to take on offences in life and be always quick to forgive others
- Being unforgiving will negatively affect our relationships and prayer life



**This is why Jesus said,**

**“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”  
(Mark 11:25-26)**



- **Jesus clearly warned of the consequences of not forgiving others when He said,**

**“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.**

**Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (Matthew 24:10-11)**

**OFFENSE**



As Christians living in a world which is now becoming more and more unloving, how we need to be examples of what it is to walk in love and forgiveness towards others as Christ's ambassadors here on earth. That through our genuine love for people we can help many others to come to Christ

#### 4) We need to continually have Kingdom priorities with the use of our time.



*In particular we need to realize the importance of:*

- i. Consistently spending quality time with the Lord with our bibles open so that we can grow and develop in our relationship with Him

**The Lord said to Joshua, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)**

**In the book of Jeremiah we read,**

**“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD,  
And has perceived and heard His word? Who  
has marked His word and heard it?”**

**(Jeremiah 23:18)**



**ii. The importance of making time to complete the good works which God has planned for our lives**

God has a unique plan for every believer's life.

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

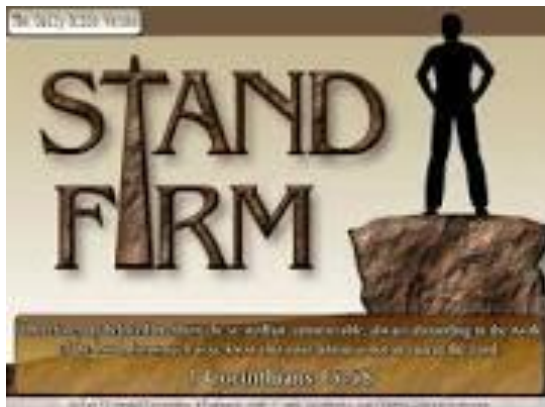
“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)



**It is so important that we continually plan our days and weeks so that we fulfil all that God has planned for our life**

**The Apostle Paul said,**

**“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast,  
immovable, always abounding in the work of  
the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain  
in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)**



### iii. Spending quality time with our family and friends (a key to having emotional health)

- Having strong friendships is a big part of experiencing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of (John 10:10)
- Spending quality time with our spouse and children needs to be a high priority in our lives. Spending quality time with our children helps us to model and teach what it is to live a God glorifying Christian life.



**In the book of Proverbs we read, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) AND**

#### **iv. The absolute importance of making time to fellowship with other believers**

In the lawless the days that we are now living in, where many people are now even hostile to the things of God having fellowship with other believers is crucial.



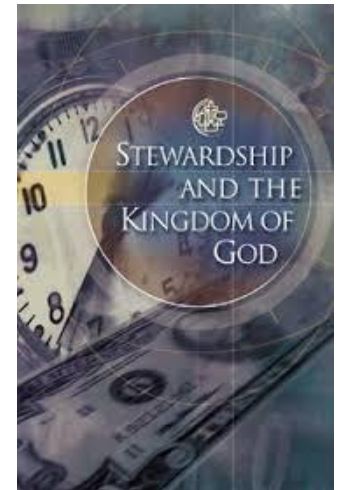
**In the book of Hebrews we read,**

**“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)**



## 5) We need to have a Kingdom perspective in relation to how we use our finances.

- As Christians we are just stewards of what God has entrusted to our care.
- We can never out give God.



**Jesus Himself said,**

**“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)**

- Having a Kingdom perspective for our finances will greatly influence the way that we use our money.



- We will have joy in sowing into God's work to help see His Kingdom being established here on earth.



**In the book of Acts we read what the Apostle Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, "... And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"**  
**(Acts 20:35)**



- Having a Kingdom perspective for our finances also causes us to be better stewards of our finances and *less wasteful* in how we use our money.



- In reality we come into the world with nothing and we can take nothing with us when we die
- It is only what we have done for eternity that will matter when we stand before Jesus to give an account of our life here on earth
- It is crucial as Christians that our money is always our servant and not our master



**Jesus Himself said,**

**“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”**

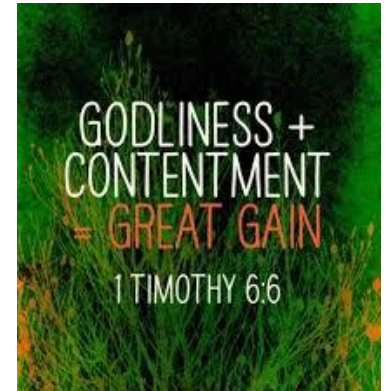
**(Matthew 6:24)**



## The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out... But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” **(1 Timothy 6:6, 7, 9-10)**



## 6) We need to continually make the following lifestyle choices

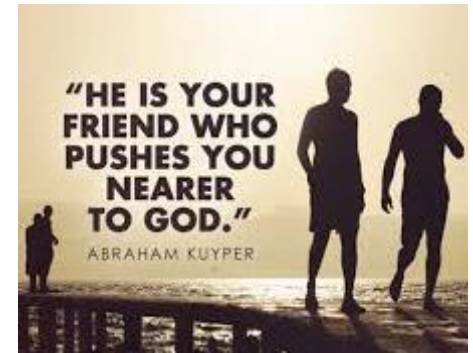
### i. That we seek to continually please God more than man



- God always *wants the best for our life*. For this reason our greatest priority in life should always be to please Him rather than people
- Continually seeking to please people ahead of God because of peer group pressure, or a need to be accepted, can result in us making many poor choices and missing God's best for our life



**ii) That we are careful to only choose godly friends who will help us to grow in our walk with the Lord**



- Our choice of friends will greatly influence the outcome of our life
- Worldly and compromising friends will erode our character



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**"Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits." (1 Corinthians 15:33)**

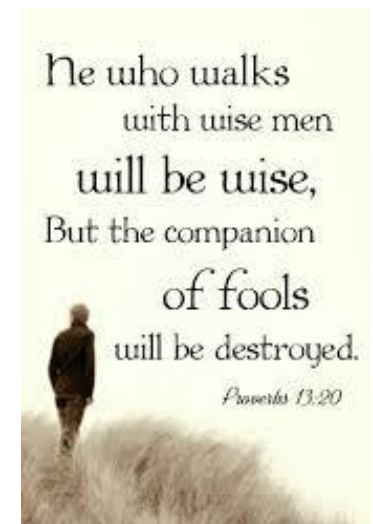
- Choosing wrong friends in life has the potential to sabotage God's best plan for our life



**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

**“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” (Proverbs 12:26)**

**“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20)**



**For this reason it is crucial that we continually choose friends of godly character and wisdom who will help to encourage and inspire us to be all that God has planned for our life**

### iii) That we continually allow Jesus to be truly Lord of EVERY area of our life including His career path (mission field) for our life

- It is important that we learn to daily commit our plans to the Lord. If Jesus is not Lord of all of our life, then He is not really Lord at all
- God's plan for our life unfolds over time, one step at a time (Psalm 37:23)
- It is important that we continually commit our plans to the Lord so that all that He has planned for our life continues to unfold over time



**Jesus Himself said,**

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”  
**(Luke 9:23-24)**



**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” **(Proverbs 16:3)**

## iv) That we are disciplined in what we focus on and meditate on (think about) in life



- What comes into our eyes and ears will greatly affect our character and influence our choices in life, either for the good or for the bad

**The Apostle Paul wrote about what we should focus on in life.**

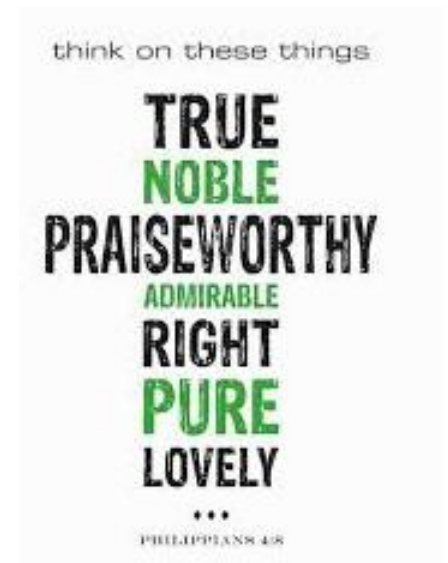


“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” **(Philippians 4:8)**

- We all have a thought life



- It is crucial that we always think upon things that are of good report and wholesome
- What we think upon (our thought life) will ultimately determine who we become in life



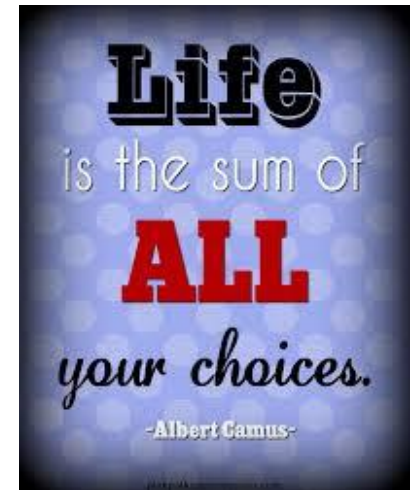
**In the book of Proverbs we read,  
“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...”  
(Proverbs 23:7)**

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote,

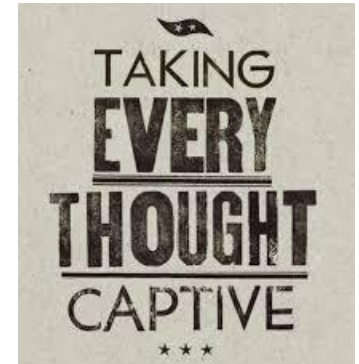
“Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.”

It is crucial that we do not meditate on and entertain wrong thoughts, but that we learn to quickly take ALL wrong thoughts captive before they take us captive

**What we focus on and meditate on in life will greatly affect the outcome of our life**



**The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of taking all wrong thoughts captive and replacing them with Christ centred thoughts.**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

**(2 Corinthians 10:4-5) *AND***



**v) That we are careful in what recreational choices we make and what places we visit.**

- Spending too much time in ungodly environments has the potential to negatively influence our walk with the Lord and to steal our passion for the things of God.
- The Holy Spirit will help to caution us when we are about to make wrong lifestyle choices
- As Christians we are to be in the world but not of it. *The closer we are in our walk with the Lord the less the things of the world will appeal to us*



In the book of Psalms we read,  
“Blessed is the man who walks not in the  
counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of  
sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But  
his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His  
law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a  
tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings  
forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall  
not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”  
(Psalm 1:1-3)



- **The Apostle John made it clear that as true believers we cannot love God and the ways of the world at the same time.**



**The Apostle John wrote,**

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

**(1 John 2:15-17) *AND***

## 7) We need to make the most of every God given opportunity to share our faith with others.

In the book of Proverbs we read,



“And he who wins souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30)

- There is a lost world desperately in need of hearing the good news of the gospel. We have a God who is able to resurrect broken lives. (Psalm 103:2-4)
- How important it is that we share the good news of the gospel with those in our world



- God's heart is that none would perish and that all would be saved. Given this fact, it is God's desire that we would share our faith with others as we live with eternity in mind



**Jesus Himself said,**

**“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!’ (John 4:35)**

- **The greatest way that we can love our family and friends is to help them to come to Christ as we pray for them and share our faith with them**

## So in conclusion:

- We have one gift of life to make a difference in this world for eternity
- God has so much planned for our future – He has the best plan for our life
- As we choose to fully consecrate our lives to the Lord, we will also begin to experience the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of
- So may I encourage you today to live your life with eternity in mind and to fully invest your life in storing up treasures in heaven. So that one day you will hear from the Lord, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”

