

Grace Unraveled  
Focus on the Eternal  
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

We are prone to short-sightedness, not in a literal sense but in a figurative sense. Our society has become extremely short-sighted, demanding immediate pleasure and satisfaction in everything from relationships to finances. We get so caught up in wanting everything new and now that we don't even realize that this worldview is a reflection of how temporary everything really is.

1. Eternal focus gives us \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. The \_\_\_\_\_ man is \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. The \_\_\_\_\_ man is \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Eternal focus gives us \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ in this life is temporary
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ in the next life is eternal
  
3. Eternal focus gives us \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Things we \_\_\_\_\_ are temporary
  - B. Things we \_\_\_\_\_ are eternal

If we are going to be effective witnesses for the kingdom of God, we must constantly be looking past the outward circumstances of this world and looking to the inward renewal of Christ's blessings in our lives. We have a mission now that requires us to live in the present, but we do so knowing that the reward for our work is waiting for us in the future when Christ returns.

Reflection

Read through 2 Corinthians 4. Why did Paul not lose heart, even though he encountered much suffering in his ministry? How did he find confidence even in the rejection of the gospel? How did he find confidence even in persecution? Compare verse 6 with the first few verses of Genesis 1 and consider how God's actions with regard to light in salvation are similar to His actions in creation. What (if anything) needs to happen in your relationship with Christ so that the "light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" can be seen readily by those around you?