

A Preseason Pep Talk

A quick look back:

Hebrews 10:26-31

What our text says this week:

Hebrews 10:32-39, Matthew 6:19-24

Living with eternity in mind means that we:

- ✓ understand the **cost** of our **salvation**
- ✓ understand an **urgency** for the **salvation** of others
- ✓ understand how **temporary** this **world** is
- ✓ understand the **riches** & **rewards** of heaven

Real Christianity will affect our:

wealth, comfort, power & fame.

Living with an eternal vision:

Luke 6:20-26, James 4:13-17, Matthew 23, Luke 12:13-21

Plan with **God's** kingdom in mind, not **ours**.

Make decisions based *more* on **eternity** than **finances**.

Only hold on **tightly** to the things you can **NEVER** lose.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 29, 2018

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1

What are your three most prized material possessions other than your home or car?

What might be some indicators that you're more focused on possessions than eternity?

2

In this week's message, Chris said "Real Christianity" will affect four areas of your life. Write down as many examples of each area you can think of. Is there one that's more challenging than the others for you? If so, explain.

3

Life can hit all of us hard at times for a variety of reasons. When you were growing up, how was a crisis handled in your home? Mark any that apply.

Bring it on	Don't tell anybody	Don't admit it
God's going to grow us	God's here	Why does this happen to us?
Blame game	God's not here	Prayer
Panic	Avoid at all costs	
Stubborn		

Are there any similarities or differences in how you respond now?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Living with an eternal perspective is planning with God's kingdom in mind. One of the incentives God gives us are the rewards we will receive in heaven. How do the following verses describe what it takes to receive rewards and prepare for our ultimate assignment in heaven?

Luke 6:27-31, 35-36 New International Version (NIV)

Love for Enemies

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Ephesians 6:5-8 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 New International Version (NIV)

Paul's Use of His Freedom

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

How would you put the above verses in order from easiest to most challenging?

2. The good news is that even though life can be hard, God not only offers us future rewards, but also encourages us today. How might the following verses serve as a comfort and encouragement when we're facing trials, frustrations or hardships?

Lamentations 3:22-24 New International Version (NIV)

²² Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 New International Version (NIV)

⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Romans 8:31-39 New International Version (NIV)

More Than Conquerors

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Which of these verses is most encouraging to you?

The verses above give us a lot to be thankful for as followers of Jesus. In fact, as Jesus followers we should ultimately be seen as optimists. Agree / Disagree?

TAKING IT HOME

1

Looking back at this week's teaching and study is there anything you would specifically like prayer for or want to process with your group?

2

Based on this week's message, is there anything you need to hold tighter? Anything you need to loosen your grip on?

PRAISE / PRAYER REQUESTS:

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COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org