

***An Eternal Perspective on Earth  
With help from Charles Spurgeon***

*“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (2 Corinthians 4:17).*

We are not going to live forever... We would all agree with that statement, right? But oh, how quickly we forget this reality in our day-to-day living. Instead of living for eternity, we live for the earthly, and in doing so we miss the beauty of the eternal in the fading canvas of the temporal. The famous Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon, who ministered in England during the 1800's penned a short devotion about this very thing. Side note, if you have never read Spurgeon, start today. He speaks to the soul. Here is what he wrote:

**Hold Lightly to Earthly Things**

*“Man ... is few of days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1).*

“It may be of great service to us, before we fall asleep, to remember this mournful fact, for it may lead us to hold lightly to earthly things. There is nothing very pleasant in the recollection that we are not above the arrows of adversity, but it may humble us and prevent us from boasting like the psalmist that our mountain stands firm, that we shall never be moved. It may prevent us from making our roots too deep in this soil from which we are so soon to be transplanted into the heavenly garden.

Let us keep in mind the frail tenure upon which we hold our *temporal mercies*. If we remember that all the trees of earth are marked for the woodman's axe, we will not be so ready to build our nests in them. We should love, but we should love with the love that expects death, and that reckons upon separations. Our *dear relations* are simply loaned to us, and the hour when we must return them to the lender's hand may be sooner than we think.

This is also true of our *worldly goods*. Do not riches take to themselves wings and fly away? Our *health* is equally precarious. Frail flowers of the field, we must not reckon upon blooming forever. There is a time appointed for weakness and sickness, when we will have to glorify God by suffering and not by earnest activity.

There is no single point in which we can hope to escape from the sharp arrows of affliction; out of our few days there is not one secure from sorrow. Man's life is a cask full of bitter wine; he who looks for joy in it would be better looking for honey in a salty ocean.

Beloved reader, do not set your affections upon things of earth, but seek those things that are above, for *here* the moth devours, and the thief steals, but *there* all joys are perpetual and eternal. The path of trouble is the way home. Lord, make this thought a pillow for many a weary head!”

Fix your eyes on the world to come. The world where there is no more sickness and pain. The world where the one who has faith in Jesus that endures will receive the never fading crown of life and glory (James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4). Blessings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Respect the Blood,  
Dalton Mathis