Series: Living Life from Above and Within

[Walking in the Light of Eternity]

Lesson: Living down here, in a way that matters up there!

Text: **2 Peter 3:1-14**

Lesson Objective is to explore how our perspective of the eternal (heavenly), bears on our earthly living.

1. **Conquering “Defeatism”, through Eternal Perspectives**
   * Defeatism is the acceptance of defeat without struggle.
   * It is often associated with pessimism, which is the tendency to anticipate negative outcomes.
   * It is always seeing the glass half empty.
   * It is perspective from the bottom up, instead of from the top down.
   * **Defeatism is the primary reason that many believers do not, and cannot engage eternity during their earthly experience.**
   * We pray for it. (Matthew 6:10), Yet we do not engage it due to the fact that we fail to **hold eternity in mind.**
2. **How do we hold eternity in mind. Read: 2 Peter 3:1-2**
   * **We hold eternity in mind by subjecting ourselves to instruments of Spiritual Renewal.**
     1. **Published works of righteousness.**
        1. **Motivating works (stir)**
        2. **Righteous works (pure)**
        3. **Thought recalling works (remembrance).**
     2. It is the ***submission*** to such works that produce the “jog” of memory to that which gives credibility to what is valid, or truth.
        1. **“Words which we’re spoken before by holy prophets”**
           1. **No private interpretation** 2 Peter 1:20-21
        2. **“And of the commandment of us”**
           1. **In Continuity of Apostles teachings**
3. **We hold eternity in mind operating in awareness of, and in the face of scoffers (mockery). 2 Peter 3: 3-7**
   * We must be aware of final day mockers, driven by **fleshly** desires, who
     1. Speak against the coming of the Lord, based on the passing of time or tenure,
     2. The misinterpretation of the times,
     3. Practicing Contemptuous conduct.
4. **To hold eternity in mind we must overcome Distorted Eternal Perspectives.**
   * Begin with “intentional ignorance”, Of the WORD
     1. THE WORD OF CREATION,

Ended in perishing flood.

* + 1. THE WORD OF PRESERVATION

Reserved for fiery destruction.

1. **To hold eternity in mind we must keep a Godly Perspective of God’s view of times and seasons. 2 Peter 3:8-9**
   * God’s view of times and seasons are in accordance with
     1. His Promise
     2. His Patience
     3. Our Perishing
2. **To hold eternity in mind we must keep in heart the DAY OF THE LORD 2 Peter 3:10**
   * **Isaiah 51:6**

**In view of what will happen to all things at the time of the Day of The Lord, Peter describes what should be the conduct of people as,**

1. Fearful Conduct and Reverent
2. Rejoicing Conduct and Bold
3. holy conversation and godliness

**With the heavens to be dissolved and on fire, we should be:**

1. Praising and worshiping in the sanctuary
2. Looking for and hasting the coming day of God
3. Judging and rebuking the lost

**We look for new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells.**

**Meaning:**

* Believers should look forward to the occurrences associated with the Day of The Lord.
* Believers should be diligent to walk in peace, and purity as the Day of The Lord approaches.

1. **Holding Eternity in mind is a matter of holding proper Eternal Perspective.**
   * Holding proper perspective begins with keeping a close watch on your personal life. This requires diligence in pursuing
     1. Moral Excellence
     2. Knowledge
     3. Self-Control
     4. Perseverance
     5. Godliness
     6. Brotherly kindness
     7. Self-less love
   * Holding Proper perspective requires diligence against
     1. False teaching
     2. Sensualism
     3. Arrogance
     4. Greed
     5. Covetousness
2. **Holding Eternity in mind requires stamina in the face of mockery.**
   * **Stamina through diligence to God**
   * **Stamina through discipline to God**