

WHAT ARE YOU INVESTING YOUR LIFE IN?

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Life on this earth is very short. Psalm 90:10 says:

As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years. Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away.

An illustration from a *Daily Bread* compares a life of 70 years with a 24 hour day:

9 years old..... 3am
18 years old... 6am
26 years old... 9am
35 years old... 12 noon
44 years old... 3pm
53 years old... 6pm
61 years old... 9pm

**Life is short. For that reason we should invest it in what has eternal value.
It would be a horrible waste to spend it on the temporal things of this world.
We can only spend it one time, so we need to spend it well.
Not everyone will even make it to seventy. Make your life count for eternity!**

As far as I can tell, according to the Bible, there are few things that have eternal value. Basically they are:

God
the Word of God
the eternal aspect of people

This causes me to conclude that I should invest my life in having personal fellowship with God, and helping others to do the same. Everything else is a bad investment of my time and resources if it is not in some way **contributing** to the above objectives.

Jesus summed it all up in Matthew 22:37-38

And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

LOVE GOD

If we really love God, we will live in obedience to Him. (John 14:23-24)

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

Jesus asked the following question in Luke 6:46

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Obedience is one of the most important aspects of the Christian life. It is also part of the foundation of a Christian family. If parents discipline their children and teach them to obey, it will make it easier for the children to obey God when they grow up. It is much better for children to suffer a little under the loving correction of their parents, than for both the children and parents to suffer later because of the consequences of bad behavior. Parents need to set the example that they wish their children to follow. Here is some basic advice for parents:

1. *Clearly explain to your children what you expect of them. (Deut. 5:1-21)*
2. *Emphasize the benefits of obedience, and give them positive feedback when they do obey. (Deut. 28:1-14)*
3. *Make it clear what the specific consequences will be for disobeying. (Deut. 28:15-68)*
4. *When they disobey, swiftly and consistently administer the stated consequences. (2 Kings 25:1-21)*
5. *After disciplining your children, give them a hug and reassure them of your love. (Haggai 2:15-19)*

SPENDING TIME WITH GOD IN HIS WORD

If we really love God, besides obeying Him, we should make it our priority to spend time with Him.

When we spend time with God, He speaks to us through His Word. (Psalm 19:7-11)

The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

The Word of God is the most precious treasure that we will ever have on this earth. If we read 4 chapters each day we can read all the Bible in one year. We can even fail 55 days and still finish all the Bible in one year at that pace! It is unfortunate that many Christians never read through the Bible even once in their whole lifetime. If we truly love God, we will spend time with Him regularly and listen carefully to His voice through His Word. Bible reading is not a substitute for regular Bible study, but it will help to saturate our life with the Word of God and transform us into what God wants us to be.

SPENDING TIME WITH GOD IN PRAYER

The other aspect of our personal relationship with God is sharing our heart with Him through prayer.

We should pray in the name of Jesus. (John 14:14)

If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

We should pray according to the will of God. (1 John 5:14)

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

We should pray with faith. (Matthew 21:22)

And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Prayer should be a part of our daily lifestyle. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Pray without ceasing.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVING THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW GOD

If we love our neighbor who does not know God, we will share the message of salvation with him/her. Evangelism is a way of life; it is not just a scheduled event.

We need to share the Gospel with love. Romans 10:1

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

We need to share the Gospel with our deeds. Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

We need to share the Gospel with our words. Romans 10:13-14

for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

We need to share the pure Gospel and not mix in a lot of other messages with it. Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

LOVING THOSE WHO ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD

If we love our neighbor who already has put his faith in Jesus, we should do whatever is humanly possible to encourage and help him to grow to maturity in Christ.

We need to pray for laborers, not just for converts. Matthew 9:37-38

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

We need to invest our life in a faithful person and help him/her to become a reproducer. 2 Timothy 2:1-2

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

We need to have regular fellowship with other believers. Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

We need to build up and not tear down. (Ephesians 4:25-32)

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

SUMMARY

We need to invest our life in spending time with God and with people. Unfortunately, many Christians have lost their way in life. They have been almost completely sidetracked and are investing their short life here on earth in the temporary things of this world:

making money
accumulating material possessions
obtaining degrees and seeking recognition
living as a slave to addictions: sex, alcohol, drugs, food, pornography, etc.
seeking significance through relationships
always looking for a way to be entertained: tv, movies, sports, whatever

All this translates into a selfish lifestyle that mostly seeks one's own pleasure. Is it really possible for a Christian to basically live according to the old saying, "Eat, drink, and be merry because tomorrow we die"? I am sorry to say that yes, it is possible.

It is worth it to live our life for God. It is worth it to live a life of service. It is worth it to invest our life in spending time with God and in ministering to others. It is worth it to reject sin and live in obedience. It is worth it! Don't get sidetracked! Don't give up! Finish the race well! We will soon be in the presence of the Lord.

What are you investing your life in, my friend?

I know this is really simple and general,
but it is what I wanted to communicate.