



By Dr. Richard Youngblood

Question: Why do Christians feel the need to make an unseen God a high priority in their lives?

The ever present things we see all around us constantly compete for the time and attention of Christians just as they do for everyone else. But people of faith understand that what is seen is not all there is. They also know that the things which are seen do not last forever. Metal rusts, wood rots, paint fades and peels, machines wear out and people get sick or grow old and die. However, our creator God's unseen qualities of love and truth always endure and lift the hearts and lives of people who look beyond what is seen to the unseen.

To keep both the seen and the unseen worlds in perspective, Christians must decide what is of greatest importance both now and eternally. I find it helpful to look at life from a one-hundred-year point of view. Will it matter one hundred years from now that I was or was not a top producer in my company? Will it matter in a hundred years that I did or did not have the largest house or most beautiful lawn in the neighborhood? Will it matter that I did not always wear the latest style clothes or that I never attended another sports event or watched another TV show? There is nothing wrong with any of these things in and of themselves. But it will matter if we allow the things we see in this world to crowd out time for an eternal relationship with the unseen God who wants to share eternity with us.

This reality is why Jesus taught his followers not to lay up treasure on earth but in heaven. He said we should first seek the kingdom of God and things like food, clothes and shelter would be provided. We can trust the God who feeds and clothes the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. Jesus also said we should learn to live one day at a time (Matthew 6:25-34). According to Jesus, the Father knows what we need even before we do. If we seek his kingdom first, he will provide all we truly need in life.

The most difficult part about maintaining spiritual and eternal priorities in life comes when we must make some difficult decisions. We may have to sacrifice some of our possessions and re-order our use of time to allow for time with our eternal Heavenly Father. But we believers who do choose to spend time with the Lord through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other believers soon find joy, love and hope far beyond anything the present world can offer us. By rearranging our priorities, we can have a good life now but also have hope for a relationship with God that will last far longer than a hundred years. The apostle Paul wrote,

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9 NIV).

All of this may sound unrealistic to many people in our world. Some people refuse to even consider anything that they cannot see and enjoy now. But this approach will leave them to live by human strength and wisdom alone and to face the end of life with no hope beyond death. If you are one of those people, I respect your right to reject a life of faith in the unseen God; but I also pray that you will see the wisdom of at least examining the potential blessings that might come through a life of faith in God. We must all choose to either “live by faith” or “by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). The things we can see are passing away. Hope lies in the unseen but verifiable reality of our eternal creator God.

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