SC Church 11.15.2026

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Managing the Tension
In the World, but not of the World

A. Intro: Have you ever just wanted to go home?
    a. John 17:14 NLT – [14] I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.
    b. Philippians 3:20 NLT – [20] But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

B. Big Idea: We can develop habits that keep our Heart surrendered to God.

C. How do we manage the tension of being in the World and not of the World?
    a. Set our Sights on Heaven
        i. Colossians 3:1-2 NLT – Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. [2] Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.
        ii. 2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV – [18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

    b. Give to God Regularly
        i. Matthew 6:21 NLT – [21] Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
        ii. Proverbs 3:9-10 NLT – [9] Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. [10] Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

    c. Manage God's Resources Well
        i. Know what God has placed in your Hands
            1. Proverbs 27:23-27 NLT – [23] Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds, [24] for riches don't last forever, and the crown might not be passed to the next generation. [25] After the hay is harvested and the new crop appears and the mountain grasses are gathered in, [26] your sheep will provide wool for clothing, and your goats will provide the price of a field. [27] And you will have enough goats' milk for yourself, your family, and your servant girls.

        ii. Eliminate Debt

1. Proverbs 22:7 NLT – [7] Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.

iii. Save & Invest for the Future
1. Proverbs 21:20 NLT – [20] The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get.
2. Proverbs 13:22 NLT – [22] Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren, but the sinner's wealth passes to the godly.
3. Ecclesiastes 11:2 NLT – [2] Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

d. Hope Fully in the Return of Christ
i. 2 Timothy 4:6-8 NLT – [6] As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. [8] And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.
ii. Hebrews 9:27-28 NLT – [27] And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, [28] so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

D. Close: Do I need to make adjustments to my focus?
a. Next Steps
i. Memorize: Philippians 3:20 NLT – [20] But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.
ii. Think: Am I focused on the reality of Heaven?
iii. Action: Manage well the resources that God has given you while keeping His Kingdom in Focus