

Sermon Questions for your Small Group/LifeGroup to think on...

**Sermon Outline:**

1. **The times are temporary! The spiritual is eternal.**  
**Always allow the eternal to color the temporal.**
2. **The devil loves to confuse the two...**
3. **Don't lose heart, seeking consistent renewal in truth.**  
**Even as everything outside is in decay or struggling; the inside doesn't have to be negatively affected!**

Words of Wisdom right now as we seek to keep perspective:

1. **Don't over-emphasize previously normal expectations.** We have to realize our expectations must necessarily change because our situations have.
2. **Hold tight to what should be held tight. Hold loosely all else.** Priorities matter. This is a test of first loves and importance.
3. **Don't jump to extremes.** The truth is almost always somewhere in the middle. =
4. **Don't make unnecessary huge decisions.** Make sure the huge decisions you do make right now are really necessary.
5. **Invest well.** Invest in people, in things that matter. Sacrifice for others... not just giving deference to others, go out of your way to be gracious.
6. **Don't respond in kind. Respond in Christ.** (Prov 15:1) Cut people slack; don't cut them down. (Eph 4:29) Don't push buttons. No human is your enemy. Your enemy is spiritual. Everyone then becomes an opportunity to show grace... not deservedly... but freely.
7. **What you praise is what you raise.** Strive to point out positives, not accentuate negatives. Compliment, don't critique. What positives are there to focus on?
8. **For as much as has changed, nothing has changed in God or in your relationship with Him.** Wisdom recognizes the long game.
9. **Don't stop living life. Figure out how to live it differently... better.** Don't accept inner decay, even if the outer isn't doing so hot.
10. **Breathe, and be thankful.**
11. **Extend grace to others and yourself.**

Questions:

1. Why is it so easy to confuse the temporal with the eternal?
2. What kinds of things are temporal? What things would you see as eternal?
3. If you were to survey your life, how are you doing "living in light" of the distinction between these two categories? Give an example to support your answer.
4. In what ways do you personally strive to keep your perspective biblical? What would you offer to someone who seems to be struggling today to see the difference between temporal and eternal things?
5. Pastor BJ mentioned several relationships which have "big picture" realities and biblical truth that should be guiding them: marriage, family, church, community. How have you seen these relationships struggling or thriving since the COVID-19 outbreak? Why do these vital relationships undergo attack and strain in times of difficulty?
6. What are some practical ways we can be investing in each of these relationships during this time?
7. Looking over the list of "Words of Wisdom," which one(s) are especially poignant for you in your setting right now?
8. The list is obviously not exhaustive. What biblically colored words of advice could you add to the list?
9. What is grace? Is it more than "forgiveness?" How does grace continue to affect our lives, even after salvation?
10. What was one of the biggest thing that stuck with you from the service this weekend?