

Our Focus on the Future Prize (Philippians 3:20-21)

>>>Right thinking leads to right living.<<<

Living today in view of tomorrow.

Q: How will this affect our lives? What changes will be evident?

Our view of the past and our view of the future is vital to how we live in the present.

Past → Present:

- Dwelling on past defeats brings _____ and _____ in the present.
- Remembering God's faithfulness to us in the past brings _____ in the present.

Future → Present:

- Dwelling on what "might be" in the future brings _____ and often paralysis in the present.
- Remembering God's promises for the future brings encouragement and will help us to be _____ and _____ in the present.

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect [*constant*] peace, whose mind is stayed [*fixed*] on **Thee**: because he trusteth [*commits himself and is confident*] in **Thee**.

FOUR truths we must fix our mind upon

I. Know where your _____ is—be _____ for Christ (v. 20a)

Q: How should the knowledge of your heavenly citizenship affect your present lifestyle?

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure [*what you value most*] is, there will your heart be also.

What we treasure controls us.

II. Know what your _____ must be—be looking for _____ (v. 20b)

Q: How should an expectant attitude of Christ's return affect our present lifestyle?

1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope [*confidence*] in **Him** purifieth [*to make fit for worship*] himself, even as **He** is pure [*undefiled*].

Q: What activities will we be engaged in if we are constantly looking for the return of Christ?

Proper vision breeds _____—diligence in _____ to the responsibilities given by the Master.

Proper vision breeds _____—being productive in the work that we have been called to by the Master.

III. Know about your _____—be striving for _____ - likeness (v.21a)

Q: How should the promise of our future complete transformation into Christ-likeness affect our present lifestyle?

Cf. 1 John 3:3 & Romans 12:2

IV. Know about universal _____—be _____ to Christ (v. 21b)

Q: How should the knowledge of future universal submission to Christ affect our present lifestyle?

When our values are twisted our pursuit of the prize will be wasted, our activities will be fruitless and powerless.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of **God**, that **He** may exalt you in due time:

Micah 6:8 **He** [*the LORD*] hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good [*beneficial*]; and what doth the **LORD** require [*what is He looking for/ desire to see*] of thee, but to do justly [*what is right*], and to love mercy [*exercise love*], and to walk humbly with thy **God**?

Humility does not insist on its own way. One who is humble is characterized by meekness, gentleness and patience.