

Are you investing in things that last forever?

November 6, 2016

I read an interesting story this week that I want to share with you. A mother of nine children wanted to do something special for her four year old for her birthday. The little girl asked if she could have some fancy cupcakes from the grocery store and have a birthday party with her siblings. Though the mother was strapped for time, she decided that she would take the child in and let her pick out the cupcakes with her. Before the mother got to the bakery aisle, she got distracted by a big "clearance" sign and stopped to see what bargains she could get to stretch her budget. An elderly man was walking by the cart where the little girl was sitting and she piped up with "Hello, old person. Today is my birthday and I am going to have a party." The tired looking gentleman spoke kindly to her and said, "Hello, little girl, how old are you?" She answered "four".

The mother was embarrassed by the child's boldness and the fact that she called the elderly man "old" so when she ran into him again a couple aisles over, she apologized to him for the child's actions. He smiled at her and told her that he was pleased that the little girl spoke to him; he said his name was Dan and then they went their separate ways. Before all of them left the store, the child asked if she could have her picture taken with Dan for her birthday. When the mother approached him with the request, he burst out laughing and was happy to have his picture taken with her. By the time they left the store, the mother had Dan's address and an invitation to stop by to see him. This became a weekly outing for mother and child and the most amazing thing transpired. The elderly man spoke of a recent loss of his life's partner, his wife, and the loneliness that had engulfed him to the point that he couldn't sleep at night, had stopped taking care of personal hygiene and was deeply depressed. However, since he had some company to look forward to seeing every week, his countenance changed, his attitude changed and he has started caring for himself once again. The old man and the child have such a bond of love between them that he has been adopted by the family of nine children as a grandfather figure for them. He is going to share "Thanksgiving Day" with them this year at their house. He declares that the love from this child has healed his heart and given him new strength and a purpose to live. Love is eternal; it will never pass away. The more you give it away, the more it multiplies and return to you.

God is love. 1 John 4:8. In Revelation 1:8, Jesus declares that he is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, which is, which was and which is to come, the Almighty. Verse 6 it declares Jesus to be the faithful witness and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. He loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and has made us kings and priest unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

The souls of mankind are eternal. John the Revelator declares that Jesus Christ will return to this earth in the clouds and every eye shall see him and those also that pierced

him. All inhabitants of the earth will wail because of him. The soldiers that pierced his side that dark day on Calvary's hill thought that they had ended his life and they were rid of him. They have a surprise coming to them for one day they will look upon the one who they tortured and killed and they will realize that death couldn't hold him, the tomb couldn't hold him, and He is alive forevermore.

Matthew 24:35 says that heaven and earth will pass away, but the words spoken by Jesus Christ will never pass away. However, there will be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:7-17 tells us that the heavens and the earth will be burned with fire from the judgment of God against the wicked. God is not slack concerning his promise, but he is long suffering for he is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But he will return as a thief in the night and the elements will melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless those who are hid in Christ look for a new heaven and a new earth. Peter admonishes believers to be diligent and watchful. Live a life of peace with God and walk holy before God. He warns us to be careful that we are not led away with the error of the wicked and cause us to fall from our own steadfastness. But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever.

1 John 3:3 speaks of the chosen ones of God as being sons of God and we shall see him as he is for we shall be like him. Everyone that has this hope in him purifies himself even as God is pure. In verse 14 it says that we know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren. Those who do not love his brothers abides in death.

1 Corinthians 13:13 reads like this: Now abideth faith, hope, and charity, but the greatest of these is charity.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 reveals that Jesus himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then those who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

There are things that will not last forever to those who love God.

1 Corinthians 15:26 says that the last enemy that will be destroyed is death. In Revelation 21, we learn that with the new heaven and the new earth, there will be no more sea. If you read this chapter you learn that tears are done away with and there is no more death, sorrow, crying and no more pain for the former things are passed away. The sun and the moon will be absent for the glory of God lights it and the Lamb is the light thereon. There will be no temple for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of that city. There will be no more night. In this city there will be nothing to defile it, nothing that works abominations or makes lies, but they which are written in the Lamb's book of Life. There will be no more curse. Revelation 27:3. The saints of God will reign forever and ever. Revelation 19:20 reveals that the deceiver, the beast and false prophet will be cast in

the lake of fire burning with brimstone. In chapter 20:10, Satan is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. Verse 14 says that death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Those whose names are not written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

It is hard for us to fathom something that cannot be destroyed, altered, wiped out or in some way over time loses its substance, but the word of God declares that truth will stand the test of time; God's words will last forever and the punishment of Satan, the false prophet and the beast will last forever. We must prepare ourselves in this life for eternity. What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Mark 8:36.

The Apostle Paul was commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ to spread the gospel to the Jews and Gentiles alike. His life mission was to be obedient to the call of God and to finish the work that God had called him to do. He didn't let anything distract him or hinder him from accomplishing his goal. There were times that people begged him not to go to certain areas because of persecution of Christians. He was moved by their concern, but he told them that he was not only willing to suffer persecution, but he was willing to give his life for Christ. In 1 Corinthians 3:6-15 Paul writes about the fact that people were boasting of being disciples of Paul and some of Apollos. Paul set them straight by telling them that the glory and honor belongs to Jesus Christ for though Paul planted the seed of the gospel, Apollos watered it, but God gave the increase. Those who plant and those who water are one, but everyone shall receive the reward from God for their labor. We are laborers together with God and we are the church of Jesus Christ. Paul said he was the master builder called by Jesus Christ to lay a foundation in which the church would be built and thrive. He warns of anyone trying to build on the foundation any other doctrine but that which was revealed and ordained by Jesus Christ. On this foundation there are materials of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and stubble. Every man's work will be manifested by the testing of fire being applied to it. The gold, silver, and precious stones will bring rewards to the worker; the wood, hay and stubble will be a loss to the worker, but he will be saved. We are warned that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. If anyone defile the temple of God, he will be destroyed. Don't be deceived for the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Be careful of the temptation to follow man's ideas and plans for God knows the thoughts of the wise and they are vain. Follow Christ's example and teachings and you will find the path to eternal life.