

Sermon Quotes
December 16th, 2007
Eternity and Eternal Things- Becoming Heavenly Minded

"I think we have lost the old knowledge that happiness is overrated, that in a way life is overrated. We have lost somehow a sense of mystery about us, our purpose, our meaning, our role. Our ancestors believed in two worlds and understood this to be the solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short one. We are the first generation of man that actually expected to find happiness here on earth. And our search for it has left us so unhappy... The reason for this unhappiness? If you do not believe in a higher world, if you only believe in the flat, material world around you, if you believe this is your only chance at happiness, then you are not disappointed when this world does not give a good measure of its riches—you are despairing!"

—Peggy Noonan

"We need to be envisioned more about Heaven and what awaits us when we see Him face to face. If we were, we'd have that to compare today's troubles to, and we'd be able to see them in a proper perspective."

—Mark Mullory

*"When I see ocean fish in an aquarium, I enjoy watching them, but I feel as if something's wrong. They don't belong there. It's **not their home**. The fish weren't made for that little glass box; they were **made for a great ocean**. I suppose the fish don't know any better, but I wonder if their instincts tell them that their true home is elsewhere. I know **our instincts** tell us that **this fallen world** isn't our home—we were **made for someplace better**."*

—Randy Alcorn

Seek means "to pursue something, to go after."

Set means "to deliberately put something in its proper place."

Secular - "A focus on this world, on things **here and now**, without reference to things spiritual or eternal."

*"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, **precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven**. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither."*

—CS Lewis

1. How often do you think about Heaven, about really going there someday?

Regularly
Occasionally
Hardly ever

2. When you do think about Heaven, does it mostly excite you or mostly cause you to think about things on earth that you will miss?

3. When you think about your future, do your thoughts mainly center on your future here on earth, or do they extend to include the hereafter?

3 Ways to Become More Heavenly-minded:

1. Work hard at establishing and maintaining a consistent Quiet Time that includes both Prayer and Bible reading.
2. Pay attention to—even memorize—Scriptures about Heaven and dwell on them, especially in times of suffering.
3. Read books and listen to messages about Heaven and Heavenly things.

“The burden of pain, care, misery grows heavier year by year. At length ambition is dead, pride is dead, vanity is dead, longing for release is in their place. It comes at last—the only un-poisoned gift earth ever had for them—and they vanish from a world where they were of no consequence; where they achieved nothing; where they were a mistake and a failure and a foolishness.”

—Mark Twain

“To come to You, Lord, is to come home from exile, to come to land out of the raging storm, to come to rest after long labor, to come to the goal of my desires and the summit of my wishes.”

—Charles Spurgeon