

"Hold Fast To Eternal Things."

2-Corinthians 4:18;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Robt. Paulsen, NY
8-22-50-

1-These are times that try men's souls. The last fifteen years have witnessed cataclysmic changes in human affairs. These changes have seemed to usher in a reversal of centuries of progress and development.

1-Depression, poverty, unemployment, and an era of financial prosperity, and consequent social revolution have stumbled over each other in rapid succession.

2-Fifteen years ago:

1-We were dreaming of an era of permanent material prosperity.

2-We were dreaming of an unparalled social morality. And we were dreaming of a lasting international peace.

3-Events of the past few years rudely shattered this glorious dream:

1-And before a staggering world could recover its economic equilibrium a war descended upon humanity, which by comparison dwarfs all previous human conflicts.

4-Naturally we ask:

1-What will remain after this tempest is done?

2-What will be left when the battle drums throb no longer?

3-And we ask, What are the Eternal things?

5-Involved are two separate, and often conflicting, sets of values-namely;

1-Immediate values, versus, 2-The ultimate value.

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6-Those who clearly distinguish between these two sets of values will gain tremendously in the great battle to hold fast to things Eternal.

1-The hungry boy and the "red apple."

1-He has no money with which to buy the apple.

2-If he gets it, it will be necessary to steal.

3-In deciding whether to steal the apple or go on hungry he must determine the distinction between immediate and ultimate values.

2-Immediately it would be more satisfying to take and to eat the apple.

1-Physically he would feel better.

3-Yet there are more permanent values involved than his immediate hunger.

1-To take the apple would be at the expense of honesty, integrity and decency.

2-It might easily be the first step in a criminal career that would end on the gallows.

4-Young people are constantly confronted with the same decision.

1-They are tempted to "gather ye rosebuds while ye may," or to "enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

2-Those who dare do it:

Will lose the ultimate values of Morality and personal purity.

5-Paul said: "The things which are seen are temporal."

1-Those who cling to the immediate values of
1-Wealth; 2-Sensual pleasures; 3-Physical ease; 4-And worldly positions will lose (the ultimate values of life); will lose eternal life and will lose the eternal values that go with eternal life.

6-The trust which we so complacently place in material things is misplaced.

The things which are seen are temporal.

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7-There is a story in the Bible which clearly illustrates the thought in this discourse.

1-Luke 12:16-20;

1-There was foolish rich man who thought up to the very last that a program of bigger and better barns was more important than anything else in the world.

2-Not until it was too late did the foolish rich man realize that:

1-"The things which are seen are temporal,

2-And the things which are not seen are eternal.
eternal."

8-Above the triple doorways of the Cathedral of Milan there are three inscriptions.

1-Over one is carved a beautiful wreath of roses and underneath is the legend.

1-"All that which please is but for a moment"

2-Over the other is sculptured a cross, with these words,

1-"All that which troubles is but for a moment."

3-But over the great central entrance to the main isle is the inscription;

1-"That only is important which is eternal."

9-Thos who hold fast to things eternal can face with confidence, complete confidence, and unshakable courage, whatever fate may lie ahead.

1-Things which are seen are temporal.

2-Things which are not seen are eternal-Time and circumstance will never overcome the eternal forces;

So I bid you "hold fast to things eternal," and in the course of life you will receive your just share of things temporal.

