

"HOLD FAST TO ETERNAL THINGS" 2-Cor.4:8-9,13-18;
S. Side,morning; 3-14-43. 2-Cor.5:1.....

1-These are time 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 consequent social revolution stumbled over each other in rapid succession.

2-Fifteen years ago:

1-We were dreaming of an area of permanent material prosperity:

2-Of unparalleled social morality and

3-LASTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

4-Political leaders were portraying a vision of prosperity which would put two chickens in every pot and two cars in every garage.

5-Events of the past few years rudely shattered this glorious dream, and before a staggering world could recover its economic equilibrium a war descended upon humanity, which by comparison dwarfs all previous human conflicts.

2-Naturally we ask:

1-What will remain after this tempest is done?

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

3-WHAT ARE THE ETERNAL THINGS?

3-Involved are two separate, and often conflicting, sets of values: **NAMELY;**

1-Immediate values and (2) the ultimate value.

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

5-Example: The hungry boy and the red apple;

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A PLEASANT PLACE TO WORSHIP

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6-Example: 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 loose the ultimate values of morality and personal purity.

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

1-Those who cling to the immediate values of wealth; (2) Sensual pleasure; (3) Physical ease

(4) And worldly positions will loose eternal life and will loose the eternal values that go with eternal life.

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8-Literature, both sacred and profane, is replete with confirmations of this statement of Paul that, "things which are seen are temporal."

1-James Fenimore Cooper, famous author of "The Leather Stocking Tales," said, "It is the destiny of all things to ripen and then decay!"

JOB 14:1-2: Vexed on every side, poured forth these mournful words: "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not!"

9-Psalms 90:4-Listen to David while he speaks of the swiftness with which the years roll by:

"For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

10-THE STORY OF AN OLD SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN...

11-In course of study our question recurs,

"What are the things eternal"? Deut. 33:27;

Moses said, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms of God"

1-The Son of God is the everlasting personification of mercy, grace and love. THESE ARE THE ETERNAL THINGS:

1-God the Father; The Son of God; the Holy Spirit; the word of God; the Kingdom of God; and the Children of God.

Time and circumstances will never overcome these eternal facts. "Held to the Eternal things."

