

appnotes

DAY 1 READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

1

In today's passage, Paul teaches us that what we think about has a way of steering the direction of our lives. Advertisers know this, that's why they will spend millions to plant an idea in our minds. We are constantly bombarded with everyone else's agenda for our time, energy, and money. As a result, our minds are as overloaded with advertisements as our inboxes. Paul is quick to emphasize that we must fill our minds with the things of God so that our lives will follow the way of God. What one truth do you need to remember today? Write it down and look at it throughout the day to set your mind on the things above.

DAY 2 READ LUKE 12:13-21

2

Everyone has a dream of where they would like to be financially. The guy in our reading today was on the fast track to achieving his dream of being rich. His investments had really paid off and the only problem he had was where to store his windfall. He decided that the best thing he could do with his wealth was to spend it on easy living. The only problem was that he wouldn't be around to enjoy it because he died that night. Jesus tells this story so that we won't miss this truth: If you live for yourself, you will be poor, no matter how big your bank account. Fight the "It's all about me" mentality by making someone else's day richer because they interacted with you today.

DAY 3 READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10

3

Some might argue that the formula for success in life is to use whatever you can, including God, to get as much as you can. But, in today's reading, Paul lays out a different formula for success. He says that godliness plus contentment is the way to live a golden life. The truth is, we go out of the world the same way we came in: empty-handed. Paul is not saying that seeking to make a better life for yourself is wrong. Instead, he is helping us gain perspective, so that we do not spend our lives on what does not last. Take a moment today to invest in eternity by praying for someone, giving a financial gift, or offering encouragement to someone who needs it.

DAY READ PSALM 100

4

It is easy to focus on what we don't have more than what we do have. There are two effects of this kind of thinking we need to watch out for. First, it makes us miserable. Second, we miss out on what we do have to enjoy. So, try this: write your own song of thanksgiving like Psalm 100. Spend some time reflecting on what you are thankful for, and for whom God has proven Himself to be in your life. And then, express that thanks and praise to Him! You can journal your version of Psalm 100, post it on Facebook, say it out loud in the car, or share it with others around a meal this Thanksgiving.

DAY READ HEBREWS 11:1-16

5

Have you ever been baffled by the actions of someone you know? That was often the case for the people watching those we read about in today's passage. Onlookers must have shaken their heads as Abram packed up everything and moved to . . . a place he didn't know. Or Noah, who built a boat where there wasn't any water. In fact, these acts of faith were often so baffling that people started to wonder if it was worth all the sacrifice, especially when the faithful did not receive what was promised to them before they died. That's the thing about living with eternity in mind - you'll find yourself making decisions that only make sense because of God's work in your life. Ask yourself: What step of faith is God asking me to take today?

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