

Success may be measured by our generation but be sure of this; it is ultimately measured in eternity.

Matt 6:20-21 (NIV)

20. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Many look at success by the standard of their peers. But what is success? Indeed we must make a place for ourselves in this world and God has nothing against that. In fact He has given us the intelligence and the wisdom to accomplish that very premise. Problems start when we measure our success by the place we make forgetting that God has given us the ability and the wisdom for that success.

Ps 49:18

18. Though while they live they count themselves blessed—
and people praise you when you prosper—

2 Cor 10:12 (NIV)

12. We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

The Lord that gave our abilities will judge whether or not we have success that will transfer into eternity.

This reminds me of a story told to me about a very faithful but very rich man. He argued with the Lord to see if he could bring one thing with him into eternity. The Lord finally relented so the man sold all he had and filled one suitcase with solid gold. Upon reaching heaven his suitcase was inspected by the saints in charge and gave him a strange look wondering why he brought a suitcase full of pavement.

Of course it's not true but a good example of how our values differ from eternity.

Mark 8:36-37

36. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

37. Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Our priorities need to start in eternity and work back to the present. If we have them backward it is time to re-evaluate ourselves and think about the eternity too come which no one can avoid.

We need to work hard and trust the Lord in all things especially starting with salvation, which is a personal commitment. Then confront the enemy of our soul even if it happens to be something within us.

Confronting self in the Light of God's Word usually turns out to be one of the hardest parts of what the Lord calls success. However much of this is not revealed until we adopt eternal thinking. The Lord is preparing a beautiful place for His children who have accepted the Blood of His salvation and then the rewards for our success will come. After salvation what is it that goes ahead of into eternity and testifies to our success? Is it not the thanksgiving, love, and service we extend toward the Lord; toward our family and our neighbors. The Lord says our neighbor are those who need our compassion.

The seeds we leave behind will show where we have invested by the fruit they bare!

Truly successful people leave an inheritance that will never perish both for their children and for all they have the ability to touch. This inheritance is an indestructible and eternal life. Amen and again I say Amen!

By Rev. Callender