


Keeping Your Eye on the Prize

Crossroads Bible Church
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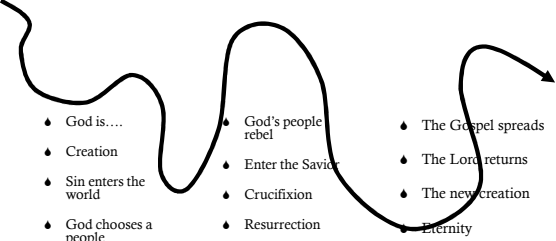
Context--What is important in a local church?

- ◆ <http://www.9marks.org>
- ◆ Preaching
- ◆ Biblical Theology
- ◆ The Gospel
- ◆ Conversion
- ◆ Evangelism
- ◆ Membership
- ◆ Discipline
- ◆ Discipleship
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ [Missions]
- ◆ [Prayer]
- ◆ [Public reading of Scripture]
- ◆ [God centered corporate worship]

God's Kingdom in History

- ◆ God's people, living in God's place, under His rule and authority, experiencing His blessing.
- ◆ Progressive story
- ◆ Forward directedness

A Look at the Map



- ◆ God is....
- ◆ Creation
- ◆ Sin enters the world
- ◆ God chooses a people
- ◆ The Law enters
- ◆ God's people rebel
- ◆ Enter the Savior
- ◆ Crucifixion
- ◆ Resurrection
- ◆ Ascension
- ◆ The Gospel spreads
- ◆ The Lord returns
- ◆ The new creation
- ◆ Eternity

Keeping Your Eye on the Prize

- ◆ Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.—Phil 3:12-14

Flee, Pursue, Fight, Take Hold....

- ◆ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.—1 Tim 6:11-12

Don't Run Aimlessly!

- ◆ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.—1 Cor 9:23-27

Promise for the Life to Come....

- ◆ Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.—1Tim 4:7b-10

I Go To Prepare a Place....

- ◆ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.—John 14:1-3

Worrying or Fretting

- ◆ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.—Luke 12:27-34

Setting Hope in Riches

- ◆ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.—1 Tim 6:17

Strangers and Aliens

- ◆ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.—Hebrews 11:13
- ◆ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.—1Peter 1:17

God is Bringing His Kingdom to Fullness

- ◆ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.—2 Pet 3:8-13

Signposts

- ◆ What do I hope or dream for?
- ◆ What makes me angry?
- ◆ What makes me happy?
- ◆ Who do I trust?
- ◆ What makes me proud?
- ◆ Where do I spend my time?
- ◆ What do I fear?
- ◆ Where do I spend my money?
- ◆ What make me anxious?
- ◆ How do I plan for the future?

Being Transformed....

- ◆ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.—2Cor 3:16-18

Losing Sight of the Prize....

- ◆ "God does not find our desires too strong but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures playing around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who goes on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a vacation by the sea. We are far too easily pleased."—C.S. Lewis

Seek First....

- ◆ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.—Matthew 6:33