

SO, WHAT'S ETERNAL IN YOUR LIFE?

“Each one’s work will become obvious, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one’s work.”

1st Corinthians 3:13

David Dykes tells of a friend who was a pastor in Louisville, Kentucky. Years ago, on a very wintry, freezing Saturday night, some teenagers broke into the church and stole some audio equipment and then they set that church on fire. It was in the middle of the night and the church was already consumed in flames when an alarm finally reached the Louisville Fire Department. By the time the Fire Department got there, the building was almost completely burned down. It was such a cold night, that when firefighters sprayed water, it froze instantly on the parking lot. The people who had not heard about the fire at St. Matthews arrived on a Sunday morning to see their building nothing but a charred ruin with an amazing ice covering. Of course the congregation was devastated. They found a place to meet that Sunday and God began to do some things in that church, great things. The pastor stood up about a week later and talked about his library in the church, which had been completely destroyed. He said that for some reason there was one book in his library — on his desk — and it was the only one he salvaged. Then he said, “Here it is!” and he held up his Bible. Every other book in his office burned. He said, “Jesus said, ‘Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.’”

If by accident or by a criminal act your church’s building were to burn, would you still have a church? Of course you would! Together you *are* the church. The church just meets in a building. And using that building as a base of operations, you do eternal things. When you lead a person to faith in Christ, that’s eternal. When you help a person develop Christian character, that’s eternal. The Bible tells us there is coming a day when “The elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed” (2nd Peter 3:10). Only the invisible and the eternal will survive. The Bible says, “The fire will test the quality of each one’s work.” If it’s flammable, it’s neither eternal nor worthy of reward. An often quoted line reminds us that, “Only one life will soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Today’s Scripture Reading: 1st Corinthians 3:5-15

Today’s Prayer Guidance: *Father, help me to think long term — to live with heaven in view. When I get distracted by the temporary, remind me of the permanent. When I see things on this earth decay and fade, remind me then that I have an heavenly inheritance that will never fade away. And when I get busy building things that will burn, remind me to invest in eternity.*