

Verse 25-35 A virgin in that culture at that time was just an unmarried woman. But the more important issue for us today is that this world is passing away, as Paul writes in verse 31, time is short and regardless of our social status, married or unmarried, or rich or poor we as God's people need to **rethink** what is important in life regarding this age we live in. We cannot allow the world even filled with trials and distractions that we face every day to dictate and determine our existence. We cannot be controlled by this world system or values, why?, verse 31 (read) We can use the world, we can enjoy the things of the world but not let it control us. I love my wife and my kids and we of course enjoy the simple pleasures of life but the bottom line is that we cannot live an anxiety ridden existence by worrying about the future or the present distress as Paul writes in verse 26, so do not get obsessed with changing or worrying about your situation. We know where the future is headed, verse 29 time is short, Jesus is coming back soon and this world is headed for colossal judged and as Christians we see have a clear vision for the future, where it's all headed. We see the present distress mentioned in verse 26 which literally means in Greek short, compressed, reduced, restrained and limited. Yes we live in the present but it is progressive and is passing away. We don't have much time as God's people to do the things that God wants us to do for Him, so we can't be all anxiety ridden over our house and marriage and job and what we are going to buy or sell and how we are going to live, be it married or unmarried. Notice verse 32 it says to live without care and in verse 33 he who is married cares for the things of this world to please his wife and verse 34 she who is married cares for the things of the world to please her husband. That word cares in Greek literally means anxious or anxiety. We are to live anxiety and the pressures of life bring us anxiety even in a marriage because we lose sight of what is ultimately important, serving and devoting out lives to Jesus Christ. That does not mean we do not serve our spouse. But it means that our marriage does not control who and what we are. These things listed are examples for us, some married some not married but no matter how we live and no matter what our life consists of in this world marriage or wealth or even slavery as we saw before in chapter 6 do not define and control us. We belong to

Jesus Christ “we are bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God’s. For some of us it is time to rethink what the Lord has given us here now. That does not mean that we are not great husbands or wives our single people but Eph 5:15-19 tells us to “walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Our calling is to know what God’s will is, walk circumspectly in God’s wisdom not in the anxiety of this world. People drink and use drugs and get all messed up on pills because anxiety takes over because we lose sight of the glory that is to come. Paul always kept his eyes on the glory and the end of the story. Ro 8:18 For I reckon (or account or figure) that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. We know how the story ends. We have read the back of the book, Revelation. Jesus comes and we live forever in glory!

Notice verse 29 and 31 (read) So don’t get all stressed out about things that are passing away. I love Isabella but no marriage exists in heaven, we’ll be together enjoying the Lord but not as husband and wife. People get stressed about marriage because they want they spouse to be their all and all. Jesus is our all and all. Marriage is wonderful but as this world it is passing away. Jesus said: Lk 20:34-36 The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: 35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. My wife is my co heir of the Kingdom of God. That is our eschatology. Eschatology is the study of the end times and the return of Jesus Christ. The end times began when Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. The clock was set then and is ticking. Time is being compressed. We as God’s people stand at the end of history of this present world that is passing away but we are

marked for eternity. If Jesus is Lord of your life you live of course in this world, so we are free to buy things and we are free to get married or stay single as we want to but don't get divorced Paul is saying, just live out your Christian walk as you are. Experience the ups and downs of life the sorrow and weeping and rejoicing as verse 30 but be as someone who does not, rejoicing but be as some who does not, buy all you want to but be as someone who is not possessing the things you buy, and use this world of course but as these things are passing away we can't allow ourselves to get to attached to "things" or misuse them or they can become idols. We can enjoy life but we don't live for this world. We care not for these things to the point that we depression or even joy overwhelm us so much that we become possessed by the things that possess us, anxiety ridden about things, why?, this world is passing away, the good news is "we are not passing away with it." So if we live in this present world like we did before we were Christians, all depressed, obsessed and possessed, then our life lacks eschatology and it's time to rethink what is important. If we live with the hope of the coming of Jesus front and center in sight all the time, we'll have radically altered values, realizing we are in the last days.

What I thought was so important is not so important any more. I'm depressed but Jesus is coming and it's all going to change so I can rethink and realize I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I don't need the psychologist who is trying to find out. I need the great physician who knows all things. But Paul is not trying to throw a noose around our neck in verse 35, he just wants us to live anxiety free. Even in an age of a crisis in verse 26, distress. In chapter 11:30 1 Co he says: For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many have died. Part of the crisis is the church, losing sight of the Lord, not discerning the blood and body of Jesus who died to set us free from this sinful world, forgetting that Jesus rose from the dead and that He is coming again. The crisis is that people in the church in Corinth and today are sick and weak and even dying because of that lack of discerning the story of glory and live for this world that has lead them into a life of anxiety. But none of this is a commandment. It is for our

own good. We can trust Paul's advice here because he received mercy and is faithful as he says in verse 25 b (read). Not everything in the NT is a commandment but it is given for our good. Often in the church marriage is seen as this superior existence and in Jewish culture you almost had to get married. But Paul is saying we are free and that's not the issue, the issue is how are we living out our Christian life in marriage or in singleness as people reaching for Jesus Christ not the TV clicker on Wednesday night. It's sad when God's people cannot see that fellowship and Bible studies will transform our lives. People in the church will go to a councilor every week or get put on pills and get sicker and sicker or watch TV and get dumb and dummer. I'm not against TV but not in lieu of Bible studies and fellowship. People not coming to a Bible study or prayer meeting is a total lack of discernment of what is good for them and rebellion against what God has provided. "No Lord I can do it myself in this world, I don't need any help" OK! Now Paul prefers being single because he is free not to have distress over the problems of marriage but if you are married don't be loosed, stay in it. If you are single don't get married because of pressure unless the temptations are too much for you then get married. Ch 7 it's better to be married than to burn. Corinthians were trying to live ascetic lives by denying marriage like modern priests and ascetics trying to deny themselves things in life through celibacy as if they are living in the kingdom now. Many denominations deny things to get close to God or have some special command. They forget that we live in the end times and the world is passing away. It's not more spiritual to get all bent out of shape about things that are passing away. That just causes more anxiety ridden Christians. Jas 5:7-8 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Eschatology has not changed in 2000 years. We are not as Christians detaching ourselves from this world but we are detaching ourselves from the control this world has over our lives. People and places and things don't control us though we are good faithful spouses and workers and own many things that do not

control us. As eschatological Christian living in the last days we might have nothing in this world yet we possess everything because we have Jesus. We have eternal life. The present world is under God's judgment. Through the blood of Jesus Christ our sin is purged and we are not facing judgment. That clear vision of our future determines our existence and frees us from anxiety. We are not under some trip or religious dogma. We are not following rules to try to win favor with God. This is for our good to follow. The bottom line for us is in verse 35 1 Co 7:35 that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction. Our life cannot be a distraction for our main objective and that is to attend upon the Lord. That means be constantly devoted to Him and His cause and we will be full, we will be rich in Christ and have treasures in heaven even while suffering and tribulations we will not be anxiety ridden, but liberated from sin, from self and from this world and blessed beyond measure. The sure way into a life of anxiety is to come under the control of this world. Eternal life begins the day we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord. We are marked for eternity so we are not under the dominating power of all those things that dictate the existence of others. In Christ we have great freedom. Let's use it wisely and redeem the time for the days are evil. Lord help us to devote ourselves to Your service. Help us to know Your will for our lives. Help us to rethink what is important and not be controlled by people places and things but to live according to Your Spirit which is life and peace.