

The Tripod of Life
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According to theodysseyonline.com, the three most important things in life are:

(1) Health

(2) Education

3) Gratitude

(1) Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

(2) Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:

1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

(3) John 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

The Apostle Paul gives the three most important things in life as:

(1) Righteousness

(2) Temperance

(3) Judgment to come

Acts 24:22-27 And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of that way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter. ²³ And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him. ²⁴ And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ And **as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come**, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. ²⁶ He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. ²⁷ But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

A. RIGHTEOUSNESS

Righteousness: *dikaiosynē*. The state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God. Right with God.

“Acting in accord with divine or moral law: free from guilt or sin.” **Webster**

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our **righteousnesses** are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 3:10, 23 As it is written, There is none **righteous**, no, not one:.....²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto **righteousness**; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the **righteousness** of God in him.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus**,...

B. TEMPERANCE

Temperance : *egkrateia*. Self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites

“Habitual moderation in the indulgence of the appetites or passions.” **Webster**

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, **temperance**: against such there is no law.

2 Peter 1:5-6 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
⁶ And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;.....

The self-control of the believer in contrast to the self-indulgence of the unbeliever.

C. JUDGMENT TO COME.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into **judgment**, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the **judgment**:

2Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the **judgment** seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

When **Pilate** saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.