

BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

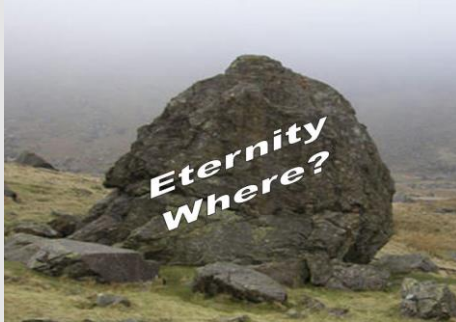
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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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Eternity Now

Eternity is a difficult thing to think of. It not only boggles the mind, but it also brings uncertainty and fear to many who ponder it. It is our aim with this little paper to bring eternity before you now, so that you may better understand it and be prepared to face it.

Eternity as a Concept

What is eternity? Many definitions and illustrations have been attempted, but they all seem to fall short of fully capturing the concept. This is probably because we are so accustomed to time—to counting seconds, days, and years—that we try to picture eternity as never-ending time. But eternity isn't truly time that never ends; it is more properly the absence of time. Eternity is timelessness.

Eternity as a Reality

Regardless of the way we choose to conceptualize eternity, let us never lose sight of the truth that eternity is a reality. The passing of each day brings us all nearer to it, and we must all enter it sooner or later. What will eternity be like? The Bible tells us a lot about it—in fact the whole message of the Bible was written by God who "inhabith eternity" (Isaiah 57:15) so that we might know how to spend it with Him.

When all the teaching of the Bible on eternity is "boiled down" to its essence, we have two things left: heaven and hell. These disparate destinies become the dwellings of all who have walked the earth, and your reality and mine for eternity will be either the joys of heaven or the woes of hell.

Eternity as a Perspective

It's amazing how things can change when we get a new perspective. The earth seems very large to us, but when compared to the vastness of the universe it becomes very small. In an even more impressive way, the significance of the things which occupy us now will change drastically when we look at them in view of eternity.

3 CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

- Q1 Are you prepared for the reality of eternity?**
- Q2 Do you know where you will be in eternity?**
- Q3 Are the things you care about today things that will benefit yourself or others for eternity?**

We urge you to take time now to consider eternity, and trust that it will change your life! Someone has said:

**“Life is too uncertain,
Death is too sure,
& Eternity is too long
to further risk delay.”**

God's Word is to be accepted now.

T. Don Johnson

'...He (God) hath set eternity in their hearts.'

Ecc. 3:11

Deep and grand in tones sublime,
Hear the passing bells of time,
Ring the dirge of moments dead,
Golden hours whose joys are fled—
Still those bells of time we hear,
Tolling, tolling: Hark! the word:

Refrain - Eternity! Eternity! Eternity!

In the rosy morning fair,
In the sultry noonday glare,
In the dewy evening bright,
In the silent hush of night—
Still those bells of time we hear,
Tolling, tolling, loud and clear:

Refrain - Eternity! Eternity! Eternity!

When with breaking heart we bend,
O'er a tried and faithful friend,
When the parting hour draws nigh,
And we catch the last "goodbye"—
Still those bells of time we hear,
Tolling, tolling, loud and clear:

Refrain - Eternity! Eternity! Eternity!

Precious word! if safe we stand
On the Christian's borderland
Trusting Him, whose loving smile
Lights and cheers us all the while—
Bells of time with joy we hear,
Tolling, tolling, sweet and clear:

Refrain - Eternity! Eternity! Eternity!

(Fanny Crosby)



A Promised Judgment

- It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)
- He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)
- After thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. (Romans 2:5)

A Promised Escape

- Eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began. (Titus 1:2)
- The gospel of God, which He had promised afore by His prophets in the Holy Scriptures. (Romans 1:1, 2)
- This is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life. (1 John 2:25)
- The promise of life which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:1)

The Promised Saviour

- He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)
- God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus. (Acts 13:23)
- Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works,

but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. (2 Timothy 1:9)

- Christ ... who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you. (1 Peter 1:19,20)

Receiving the Promise

- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)
- 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.... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:9,13)
- For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9)



For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.
1 Peter 3:18

THE MAKER OF THE UNIVERSE



The Maker of the universe

**As Man, for man was made a curse.
The claims of law which He had made,
Unto the uttermost He paid.**

2

**His holy fingers made the bough
Which grew the thorns that crowned His brow.
The nails that pierced His hands were mined
In secret places He designed.**

3

**He made the forest whence there sprung
The tree on which His body hung.
He died upon a cross of wood,
Yet made the hill on which it stood.**

4

**The sky that darkened o'er His head
By Him above the earth was spread.
The sun that hid from Him its face
By His decree was poised in space.**

5

**The spear which spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God.
The grave in which His form was laid,
Was hewn in rocks His hands had made.**

6

**The throne on which He now appears
Was His from everlasting years.
But a new glory crowns His brow.
And every knee to Him shall bow**

Author unknown



Be in Time

Ecclesiastes 3 states: "There is a time for everything." That also applies to God's call to us. The heavenly clock does not run according to the atomic clock, but according to God's time. God's Spirit does not call us and convict us all of our days. The book of Job states: "All these [things] worketh God twice, thrice, with man to bring back his soul from the pit" (Job 33:29–30).

Studying the New Testament, one is struck with the way in which people confronted with the gospel grasped hold of their salvation on the very same day.

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–9) climbed into a tree to be able to see Jesus passing by. Jesus approached him, told him what was necessary for his salvation, and he was thoroughly converted.

The message of salvation struck the **Philippian Jailer** (Acts 16:23–34) after midnight. This Gentile was obedient to the command, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" and found eternal life.

Lydia (Acts 16:14, 15) heard the saving word while assembling with other women by the river, and found eternal salvation in Jesus.

The thief on the cross (Luke 23:40–43) called upon Jesus, and was accepted.

If one had asked all of these folk at breakfast whether they wanted to become converted on that day, they would have answered with a clear "NO." But God called them in *His hour*, throwing them the saving lifeline. Note that all of them immediately grasped hold of it, and with it, eternal life.

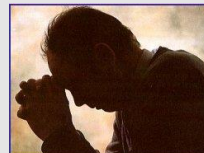
So too should you heed the call of God seriously as you read these words, and take hold of salvation today. Now could be your hour!

Others were unwilling to make the decision. The rich young ruler (Luke 18:18–23), after his decisive encounter with Jesus, walked away sorrowfully; his attachment to his wealth ruled out the option of following Christ. The Athenian philosophers shied away from a decision, preferring instead to hear Paul again at another time (Acts 17:32). King Agrippa stood at the threshold of conversion when he said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28).

The Bible nowhere tells us that these people made a decision for Christ at another time. That is why God gives us this advice: "Today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 4:7). *From Time and Eternity by Werner Gitt,*



POINT TO PONDER



Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6: 2

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