

**ETERNITY**

Ecclesiastes 3:11

What IS... eternity? The dictionary says it is: "Time without beginning or end..." Classical philosophy says it is: *that which exists outside of time.*

Eternity is an important concept in Christianity, and often thought of in two divisions...

eternity \_\_\_\_\_ - and eternity \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bible puts forth this concept.

\_\_\_\_\_ is eternal - Psalm 90:2; 93:2.

\_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ is eternal

Psalm 23:6; John 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

As finite beings we find it hard to wrap our minds around such an enormous concept as "eternity." Consequently, we seldom, if ever, think about it. But Solomon reminds us (Ecc. 3:11)

*He (GOD) has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;***

There is another division of eternity the Bible speaks of, and it is of the utmost importance to talk about... eternity as it relates to our immortal \_\_\_\_\_. Each of us will go into eternity... either into a happy eternity... or into an *unspeakable* miserable eternity.

There will be a \_\_\_\_\_ of souls at the judgment throne of God. Jesus explains it in Matthew 25:31-46.

We need to realize what you think about heaven... or what you don't think about heaven... largely determines what you think about and how you live in the present. It is easy to get swamped with things here on earth... jobs, finances, health, relationships. When those things are happening... and so much more... it's not easy to meditate on the glories of heaven!

Peter address this very concern in 2 Peter 3:11-14. Do you sense an obligation to live with an eternal perspective? Peter is saying, "If you don't you should!"

God has set eternity in our hearts. This is not our home. We are pilgrims on a journey here. We belong to a heavenly place. If we

take THAT perspective for life and living, we will understand what Isaiah meant when he said, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace; whose mind is stayed on thee..." (Isaiah 26:3)

But... most of us... most of the time... live with the expectancy of \_\_\_\_\_... instead of the expectancy of eternity!

I've got to get ready for eternity! I've got to get ready for the Lord's return! I've got to get ready to LEAVE this place! And Jesus said... "AS YOU GO..." as you go about life, getting ready for eternity... tell as many as you can... as often as you can... every place that you can.

**Tell them:**

The moment you take your last breath you enter into eternity.

You can perish for all eternity in the lake of fire...

or you can live forever with God in a place where there will be:  
no more tears; no more sorrow; no more pain; no more sin;  
no more good-byes; no more death; no more sickness;  
no more darkness...

**Tell them:**

God loves you so much He gave His Son so you don't have to perish... but so you can have eternal life!

Eternity is just a single heartbeat away for all of us! God's patience is about allowing more and more people the opportunity to accept His grace... to accept His gift of eternal life through His son... Jesus Christ. To repent of our sins... to confess Him as Lord... to be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins... to live out the rest of our days in the newness of life... to be ready when He calls... or "rapture ready" when He comes... and to *reset* our hearts on eternity.

WHAT I WILL DO WITH THIS MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

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