

Are You Living in the Light of Eternity?

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Ecclesiastes 3:9–11 (NKJV) “*What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? ¹⁰ I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.*”

Human beings are creatures of time. We live in the realm of time. God exists outside of time. He lives in the realm of eternity: “*For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.’*”¹

God invites us to walk with Him. Unless we walk in the light of eternity, we will not be able to walk with God. Unless we walk in the light of eternity, we will live for what is temporal and fleeting rather than by what is eternal and lasting. Our value system will be based upon this world which is passing away rather than on the world to come that will not pass away.

All of God’s works were planned before time began and are already accomplished from the perspective of eternity. Yet, in the realm of time His works are still being revealed. Like a rose bud unfolding to reveal its beauty, so the works of God are unfolding to reveal His glory. To rush the unfolding of a rose bud is to mar the beauty of the rose. God has made everything beautiful in its time.

Unless we live in the light of eternity, we will not perceive or understand the beauty of God’s works unfolding in the realm of time. Without an eternal perspective we will fix our eyes on the temporal problems of this life rather than on the eternal glory that will be revealed. Paul said it this way: “*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”²

If we are to walk with God and cooperate in His unfolding works, we must see things from His eternal perspective. We must live in the light of eternity. If we hope to see the beauty that is yet to be revealed, we must live by faith and not by sight: “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*”³ Faith embraces eternal realities and brings them into the realm of time.

God put eternity in the heart of every man. It is like an eternal instinct. God wired us to believe that there is something beyond death. This “something” is called “eternity.” Many ignore this eternal awareness to justify living for the temporal here and now. However, there remains a nagging awareness that our soul is eternal and we will exist somewhere even after we die.

¹ Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV)

² 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV)

³ Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

God created us with a sense of eternal purpose. Some call it destiny. He put each one of us in a specific place on earth at a specific time in history with specific abilities to accomplish a specific purpose for His glory. Our life began on the day we were born and will end on the day we die. We will all die one day. Have you considered your mortality? Have you considered the fleeting nature of your life? Have you considered that the date and means of your death are known to God but are unknown to you? Are you ready if that day were today? Few are ever ready to die, but everyone needs to be prepared to die. In fact, we are not prepared to live until we are first prepared to die.

Once we die, then what? The Bible is clear: we will face God in judgment: "*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*"⁴ The God of justice and mercy will sit on the judgment seat and we will appear before Him. He will render to all what is just. Are you ready to face God on Judgment Day? Are you ready to give account for the way you have spent your time, talents, and treasures? Are you ready to give account for your response to and obedience to the gospel? Will the things that you are living for now seem important then?

The question remains: Are you living in the light of the eternity? People on their death beds usually have two things on their minds: their relationship with God and their relationship with their family and loved ones. Why? It is because God and human souls are eternal. Sadly, few connect with eternity until they stand at death's door.

Death brings our earthly life into focus. People on their death bed don't wish they had spent more time at the office, playing more golf, catching more fish, watching more television, or playing more video games. Most people will wish they had obeyed and served the Lord. They will wish they had given more, served others more, and helped God's work. They will wish they had spent more time with their family. They will wish they had prepared their children for eternity also. Shouldn't our priorities at the end of life be our priorities every day of our life?

People will enter eternity with either readiness or regret, with peace or turmoil, or with faith or fear. How would you feel if you knew that you would take your last breath on earth today?

Life is preparation for eternity. Life is more than possessions, position, power, popularity, and prestige. Have you invested your life in eternal things? Are you ready to stand before a holy God and give account for your life? Are you ready to stand before Him and give account for what you have done with Jesus and the gospel? Have you considered your need to be saved from the wrath to come? Have you obeyed God's condition for eternal salvation? Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV) says, "*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*"¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*"

We are not prepared to live our lives until we live them in the light of eternity. Jesus paid a great price for our salvation. Are we living our lives worthy of the price He paid? Leonard Ravenhill once said, "Is what you are living for worth Christ dying for?" May we live with our eyes fixed on what is eternal. May we live worthy of Christ's sacrifice. May He forever receive the reward of His sacrifice.

⁴ Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)