

We All Have Eternity In Our Hearts And Minds

Ecclesiastes 3:11 [NIV] *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;** yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”*

If we are honest none of us can consider our **not** existing.

We all underneath have a desire to live for ever.

Maybe not in the physical, limited and often painful state we find ourselves as we grow old, but still we find life sweet.

The writer of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, gives us all some very sound advice about life, how not to waste it.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 [Living Bible] *“**Don’t let the excitement of being young cause you to forget about your Creator.** Honour Him in your youth before the evil years come, when you no longer enjoy living. It will be too late then to try to remember Him, when the sun, light, moon and stars are dim to your old eyes and there is no silver lining left among your clouds. For there will come a time when your limbs will tremble with age and your strong legs will become weak, and your teeth will be too few to do their work and there will be blindness too. Then let your lips be tightly closed while eating when your teeth are all gone! And you will waken at dawn with the first note of the birds, but you yourself will be deaf and tuneless, with quavering voice. You will be afraid of heights and of falling, a white haired, withered old man dragging himself along, without sexual desires, standing at death’s door and nearing his everlasting home as the mourners go along the streets. Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel is broken at the cistern, [all depicting the very frailty of human life], and the dust returns to the earth as it was and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”*

How easily death comes to us, how swiftly and unexpected we can return to the dust from which we came.

Therefore we should recognise life as a precious resource to be used wisely and not squandered frivolously.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 [Living Bible] *“**Here is my final conclusion: fear God and obey His commandments,** for this is the entire duty of human beings. **For God will judge us for everything we do,** including every hidden thing, good or bad.”*

In his conclusion Solomon presents his antidotes for the two main ailments presented in this book and extensively seen in today’s society.

Those who lack a purpose and direction in life should fear God and keep His commandments.

Those who think life is unfair should remember that God will review every person’s life to determine how they responded to Him, and will bring every deed into judgement.

We need to ask the question, have we committed our life to God, both present and future?

Solomon shows that we should enjoy life, but this does **not** exempt us from obeying God.

We should search for purpose and meaning in life, but they cannot be found in human endeavours.

We should acknowledge the evil, foolishness, and injustice in life, yet maintain a strong and positive attitude of faith in God.

All people will have to stand before God and be judged for what they did in life, [2 Corinthians 5:10-12].

To live properly we need to:-

Recognise that human effort without God is futile.

Put God first at all time.

Receive everything that is good in our life as a gift from God, and be thankful.

Realise that God will judge both good and evil in our life.

Know that God will judge the moral quality of every person's life.

How strange it is that people spend their lives striving to find joy and fulfilment, the very things that God will give to us freely when we seek His will for our lives.

The deep desire to continue to exist, that God has put in us when we have a physical life that is slowly deteriorating and eventually dies, has a great purpose.

God wants this to motivate us to seek Him who is the only One who can offer us life beyond the grave.

Yet all too often we seem to be blinded to this motivation, too blinded and sinful to find God or even to look for Him.

Revelation 12:9 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

This is the reason for the spiritual blindness of most people at this time.

We take it for granted that God to be God has to be eternal by nature.

What is surprising is that God chose to place a sense of His everlastingness within every human being.

Genesis 2:7 [NIV] *“the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living being.”*

This “*breath of life*” included this desire for everlastingness.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”* [**Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**]

This is the human spirit that God placed in us that gives us a mind that cannot imagine **not** existing.

God has placed every human being between the everlasting vanishing point of yesterday and the equally everlasting vanishing point of an unborn tomorrow!

God has placed in every human being a desire that only He can fulfil.

In a sense, God has spoilt human life by placing this touch of eternity in our mind.

If human beings were only beasts at the top of an evolutionary ladder, we would **not** be disturbed by the thought of everlastingness.

Beasts in the fields do **not** have any wars.

Cattle in the pastures do **not** have gambling dens or whorehouses.

Why is it that only humans among all creatures plot and scheme such a device as “*murder, incorporated*”?

When we say that humans are beastly we insult the beast and lie about who humans really are.

Physical beings who are created in the “*image*” [shadowy form] of God.

Sin is not beastly it is devilish.

The devil does **not** bother beasts of the forest or meadow because they do **not** have this spirit within them that desires everlastingness.

The Christian church needs to have many more leaders who have the courage to tell all human beings, again and again, why they exist, [**Genesis 1:26-27**].

Why they fear death.

Why they have this burning and disturbing desire for life after death.

God has placed this disturbing desire in humans so that they turn to Him, the Only One who can fulfil this desire.

All humans need to know that they are lost and will certainly perish eternally unless they repent of their sinful way of life that is prompted by Satan and turn to their Creator God for forgiveness.

When a human being seeks God and prays to God, he is doing the most natural thing in the world, because God created them originally to do that very thing.

God has put a longing after immortality in the hearts of human beings.

Immortality is what the spirit in humans wants more than anything else, and they die of suffocation when they are **not** resuscitated by the presence of God in their lives.

Human beings, deceived by Satan, have always sought to fill the void in their lives, this desire for everlastingness, by any other way than submission to the eternal Creator.

Genesis 3:17-19 [NIV] *“To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*”

This curse that was placed on the first created human beings because of their sinful rebellion against their Creator God still stands as far as all who have **not** accepted the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:13-14 [NIV] *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”*

Only through accepting this act of our Saviour Jesus Christ can we receive the eternal spirit, the Holy Spirit, which is the source of everlastingness in our lives.

Romans 6:23 [NIV] *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Eternal life is a gift from God, without it we have no future, we have lost out as far as fulfilling this desire God has placed in us.

Everything else that is offered by this world is temporal and transient, it is the result of the curse that rebellious sin brings on us.

As far as human beings are concerned, everything is wrong until Jesus Christ sets it right.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life.

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

This is the commission every Christian disciple has been given.

Preach the words and promises of Jesus Christ to all human beings.

When we Christians do this, all the authority of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be ours to use.