

# The Eternity Of The Christian God And The Hope Of All Humanity

The concept of everlastingness runs through the entire Christian Bible and looms large in orthodox Hebrew and Christian thought.

If we reject the concept of eternity we would have to reject also the thoughts of the prophets and apostles for they are full of the dreams of eternity.

Because the word “*everlasting*” is sometimes used to mean no more than long lasting, as in **Genesis 49:26**, some people have argued that the concept of unending existence was **not** in the minds of the writers when they used the word but was supplied later by theologians.

This is a serious error that has **no** grounds for scholarship.

The logical truth is that if the Christian Bible did **not** teach that God possessed endless being in the ultimate meaning of that term, we would be compelled to infer it from His other attributes.

The idea of endlessness is to the Kingdom of God what carbon is to the kingdom of nature.

As carbon is present almost everywhere in the physical creation, as it is an essential element in all living matter and supplies all life with energy, so the concept of everlastingness is necessary to give meaning to any Christian doctrine.

No tenet of Christian creed could retain its significance if the idea of eternity were extracted from it.

**Psalms 90:2** [NIV] *“Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

Another way of saying this about the Christian God is *“from the vanishing point of the past to the vanishing point of the future, God is at both points.”*

Time marks the beginning of created existence of the universe, and because God never began to exist, time can have **no** application to Him.

“*Began*” is a time-word that can have **no** personal meaning for God, who inhabits eternity.

**Revelation 4:8** [King James] *“... holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”*

**Because God lives in an everlasting now, He has no past and no future.**

When time-words occur in the Word of God, the Christian Bible, they refer to human time, **not** to God.

God is **not** Himself affected by the succession of consecutive changes we call time since He is uncreated.

God dwells in eternity but time dwells in God for He has already lived all our tomorrows as He has lived all our yesterdays.

**Psalms 139: 5, 15-16** [NIV] *“You hem me in, behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.” ... “My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”*

God's hand was guiding our life before we existed.

That God existed before the beginning of time is **not** too difficult to comprehend, but that He is at the beginning and end of time simultaneously is **not** very easy to grasp, yet it is true.

Time is known to us by a succession of events. Time is the way we account for consecutive changes in the universe. Changes take place in succession, one after another, and it is the relation of "after" to "before" that gives us our idea of time.

We wait for the earth to turn so that the sun changes its position from east to west of where we exist on the face of the earth.

Or we wait for the hour hand to move around the face of the clock.

But God is **not** compelled so to wait.

**For God everything that will happen has already happened.**

**Isaiah 46:8-10** [NIV] *"Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."*

Being in eternity and **not** limited by time the Creator God can make this claim, for He sees the end and the beginning in one view.

**Psalms 90:1** [NIV] *"Lord, you have been our dwelling-place throughout all generations."*

With this ability to see the end from the beginning God is the eternal safe home for all His time-driven children.

Another thought is less comforting: God's eternity is so long and our years on earth so few, how can we "establish the work of our hand?" [**Psalms 90:17**]

How do we escape the aging process of time and events that wear us out and eventually kill us?

**Psalms 90:12** [NIV] *"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."*

**Realising just how short time is, does it not make logical wisdom to concentrate on those things in our life that lead us towards receiving the gift from God of eternal life?** [**Romans 6:23**]

**Matthew 6:33-34** [NIV] *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

We have to put God first in our lives, seeking the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives to develop the "fruits" of the Holy Spirit which are the very character of the Creator God which His created children must have. [**Galatians 5:22-23**]

How do we do this?

Confess our sins to God, and repent of our sinful life by crucifying our old life that deserved death and taking on a new life directed by Jesus Christ, [**Romans 6:3-8**]

Through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ being a substitute for our deserved death, [**Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23**].

Ask that some of the righteousness of Jesus Christ be credited to us making us acceptable to God the Father and the Holy Spirit, [**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24**].

Then ask for the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. [**Luke 11:13**]

Then live in step with the Holy Spirit. [**Galatians 5:25**]

This is the **only** way we can receive the gift of eternal life.

**Ephesians 1:1-14** [NIV] *“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will, to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of his glory.”*

**Within the inheritance is eternal life to be alive to live that inheritance with Jesus Christ.**

**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.”*

Human beings are made for eternity as certainly as we are made to live in time, and as responsible, moral beings we **must** deal with both.

All within us cries out for life and permanence when everything around reminds us of mortality and change.

**2 Timothy 1:10** [NIV] *“but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*

This was the inspired thoughts of Paul just before he went out to meet his executioner.

God’s eternity and human mortality join to persuade us all that faith in Jesus Christ is **not** optional. [**Acts 4:12**]

For every human being it must be Jesus Christ or eternal tragedy.

**Philippians 2:12-13** [NIV] *“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation **with fear and trembling**, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”*

We have a part to play in our salvation and receiving the gift of eternal life. **Note** with *“fear and trembling.”*

God works in us through the active presence of the Holy Spirit, we have to work out with acts of love for other human beings. [**John 7:37-39**]