

Eternity in Our Hearts





## *Present Troubles in Eternal Context*

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*1 Peter 1:3-9*

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **In his great mercy** he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.



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<sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.



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*1 Peter 1:3-9*

<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



# *Present Troubles in Eternal Context*

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*1 Pt. 1:3-9*

GOD'S GREAT MERCY

*THROUGH*

DEATH & RESURRECTION OF JESUS

*GIVES US*

NEW BIRTH

*INTO*

A LIVING  
HOPE

AN ETERNAL  
INHERITANCE



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1. **Eternal Life** (Lk. 18:18; 1 Pt. 3:7; Heb. 1:14)
2. **The Kingdom of God** (Mt. 25:34; 1 Cor. 6:9)
3. **God Himself** (Ps. 16:5-6; 73:26; Nu. 18:20)

“No eye has seen,  
no ear has heard,  
no heart has imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love Him.”

4. **The Holy Spirit guarantees it** (Ep. 1:14)



# *Present Troubles in Eternal Context*

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- In my life, when the troubles and trials of this world bear down on me, and the deceitfulness of the temporary things of earth promise to make it all better...

Are the **living hope** and the **eternal inheritance** still good enough?



## *Our “Eternity-Blind” Age*

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Temporary mindsets; “eternity-blind”—a form of spiritual shortsightedness that perceives the “here and now” in the following ways:

- I. This age matters more than eternity.
- II. The present age is simply all there is.



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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## Genesis 1:1-2

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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## Exodus 3:14

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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Psalm 90:2

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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Isaiah 40:28

<sup>28</sup> Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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## Revelation 1:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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Temporary mindsets:

- I. This age matters more than eternity.
- II. The present age is simply all there is.

Prioritizing the temporary shifts our worldview from God-centered to man-centered.

- Are my thoughts, words, and actions generally focused on temporary or eternal things?



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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➤ Do my thoughts, words, and actions more often serve to reflect,

**the eternal nature of God**

or

**the temporary nature of this present age?**



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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Things are not always as they first appear:

1. The woman's change of wardrobe. *T or E?*  
*The temporary served/revealed the eternal.*
2. The man's newfound church work. *T or E?*  
*The eternal served/revealed the temporary.*

Study:

Heb. 4:12-13; Col. 3:17; Mt. 6:5; 1 Sam. 16:7; Pr. 3:6; 16:2



# *GOD IS ETERNAL*

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## Ephesians 5:24-27

<sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.



# ***GOD IS ETERNAL***

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## *Eternity-Blind Cycle*

OT: Dt. 8:11-18; Jg. 3:7

NT: Mt. 13:22; 1 Tm.  
6:9; 2 Cor. 11:3-4;  
Ga. 1:6-7; Col. 2:8

Seek to  
fill the void



Lives  
"too busy"  
for God



Forget who  
God is



Lives stop  
reflecting  
God





# *Eternity in Our Hearts*

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## Ecclesiastes 3:11

<sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.



## *Eternity in Our Hearts*

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What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him... since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself.

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Blaise Pascale, *Pensées* VII



# *Eternity in Our Hearts*

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You have made us for yourself, O Lord,  
and our heart is restless until it rests in you.

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Augustine, *Confessions*



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## Acts 17:27

<sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.



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## Romans 1:20

<sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.



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Temporary mindsets; “eternity-blind”—sees the present age as more important than eternity and/or simply all there is.

Prognosis: If treated, permanently curable.  
If left untreated, eternally fatal.

Treatment: Col. 3:1-2; Eph. 5:26; 2 Tim 2:22;  
Gal. 5:16; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rm. 10:13



# *Practical Application*

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- What trials/suffering are burdening you?
  - Reconsider these in the full light of eternity.
  - Memorize scripture for endurance.



# *Practical Application*

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- What trials/suffering are burdening you?
- What temporary concerns regularly draw your mind or heart away from eternity?
  - If it is within your power, eliminate them.
  - If not, how might the temporary serve the eternal?



# *Practical Application*

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- What trials/suffering are burdening you?
- What temporary concerns regularly draw your mind or heart away from eternity?
- Which of my thoughts, words, relationships, or actions most effectively portray the world to come?
  - Look for ways to multiply these
  - Ask God to use these to bring others to repentance.



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