

He Has Put Eternity Into Man's Heart

Eccl. 3:11

•11 He has made everything appropriate in its time He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. (NASB)

•11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (ESV)

Introduction

•One of the loftiest and deepest concepts in scripture to fathom is eternity.

–Eternal: everlasting, never ending, for ever and ever.

–Nothing here in our earthly existence to compare. We are familiar with that which has a beginning and an end.

•Workday

•Football game

•School year

•Life here on this earth

–Solomon speaks of it as being put into the heart of man. Sense that there is something beyond this life. (II Cor. 4:17-18)

–Lesson: How should this contrast between those things that are temporary and eternal help us in our lives?

I. Five Things That Are Eternal

•God is eternal. (Ps. 41:13; 90:1-2; I Tim. 1:17)

–God who is eternal brought all things into existence. (Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 3:4)

•God's word stands forever. (I Pet. 1:22-23)

–Produces faith and the new birth. (Jn. 3:3-5)

–It is living, active, relevant, and powerful. (Heb. 4:11-12)

–It cannot be broken. (Jn. 10:35)

–It cannot be rendered invalid by the standards of society, human creeds, etc. (Matt. 15:9; Jn. 12:48)

•Heaven Is Eternal.

–The dwelling place of God. The everlasting reward of the saved.

–Mk. 10:30; Rev. 21:3-4; 22:1-5

•Hell is everlasting in duration.

–Everlasting punishment -- prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matt. 25:41,46; Rom. 2:8-9)

–Mark 9:43-44 → The fire is never quenched.

•The soul never dies. (Js. 2:26)

–Heb. 12:9; Gen. 1:26-28

–Matt. 10:28; Lk. 16:19-31

II. Things That Are Temporary

•The material universe, the earth on which we live. (II Pet. 3:10-11a)

•Our earthly lives and activities. (I Jn. 2:15-17; Eccl. 9:2-6; Heb. 9:27; Matt. 24:37-39)

•The things that we possess, that money can buy. (Lk. 12:15, 20; I Tim. 6:7)

III. What Effect Should These Things Have On Our Lives?

•It will focus us on our ultimate purpose, reason for being here. (Eccl. 12:13-14; Acts 17:27)

•It will help us to order our priorities. (Col. 3:1-2; Matt. 6:33)

–How do we spend our time, energy, resources; the choices that we make...

•It will help us in our relations with others. (Titus 2:10; I Tim. 4:12; II Cor. 4:13)

•We will prepare for the coming of Jesus. (II Pet. 3:9-14)