

SEEING ETERNITY THROUGH OUR ETERNAL HOME

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Why do we want to see Eternity? Why is it so important for us to understand eternity? Why is it vital that we see eternity as something more real than this present world we are living in?

Because **when we don't have an eternal mind set, we let the things in this world pressure us; we let it dictate to us what we do with our lives.** And the truth is--the reality is--what we DO with our lives in this Earth will determine where we spend Eternity AND it will determine our **position** in Eternity.

We understand God's creation--He created everything for mankind; and He created mankind for Himself. His intention was to create--with the help of mankind--a family for Himself--a world where His love could be lavished upon His children; a world where His children would love Him, too--because they **wanted** to.

We know from history that the enemy of God **interrupted** God's plan. But Jesus came... And now, Christians are working with God once again to help bring God's dream of a big family into being. This is where we are right now in God's plan--Heaven and Earth are separated. In the beginning they were not separated--God would come down in the cool of the day and fellowship with Adam and Eve--there was no separation. Adam could speak and it was done; just like God. The Earth was perfect, just like Heaven.

Now there is a separation--because of Satan. He is the god of this world; the prince of the powers of the air. The thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. He corrupts and perverts the good that God creates. Death came and brought physical and spiritual separation. The body decays, the spirit returns to God, where it came from, until they can be reunited at the resurrection. The body is in the Earth; the spirit is in Heaven.

Eternity is the reuniting of Heaven and the Earth!

Most people have a false picture in their mind of what Heaven is really like. It doesn't seem like a real place to them. Our goal in this study is to get an accurate picture of Heaven and its relationship with Earth so we can begin **to plan** for our Eternity. People plan for their 'retirement' but neglect the long-term reality of Eternity.

I Corinthians 2:9 & 10

As it is written, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit.

- Heaven is beyond our wildest imaginations!
- But, in His love for us, He has revealed what He has prepared for those He loves by His Spirit.
- There are people who have, like the apostle John, been caught up in the Spirit, had dreams, or seen visions of Heaven and by these spiritual encounters, Heaven has been revealed to us.
- We are more alive in Heaven than we ever were on Earth.
- You do not 'cease to exist', but it is like 'moving' to the most fantastic place where everything you desired is already waiting for you.
- Heaven is not boring. You don't have to give up 'things' when you go to Heaven.
- God has prepared the things you love, the desires of your heart; and you will experience them in Heaven!

Hebrews 8:5

But these offer service merely as a pattern and as a foreshadowing of what has its true existence and reality in the Heavenly sanctuary; for when Moses was about to erect the tabernacle, he was warned by God, saying, 'See to it that you make it all exactly according to the copy or model which was shown to you on the mountain.'

- Earth is a copy of Heaven.

- Most of what is here on Earth already exists in Heaven.
- It is not a flat place in the sky, floating around covered in clouds with fat baby angels dropping grapes into our mouths.
- It is a literal 'world'; it is the spirit world.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect, free, large, full gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all that gives light, in the shining of Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [as in an eclipse].

- Many things on Earth have always been in Heaven, only perfect.
- No death, decay, rust or pollution at all. Everything is beautiful.
- God-inspired ideas eventually made it into the mind of man and were then invented on Earth.
- It is the enemy, Satan, who has perverted and defiled things on this Earth and he uses people to promote and desire these wicked things.
- There is neither evil nor its influence in Heaven.
- We can be sure there are many things in Heaven that have not yet been invented here on Earth.
- It has been scientifically proven that humans only use a small percentage of our brain power.
- In Heaven we will be unhindered in our creativity.
- Right now, Heaven and Earth operate in two different realms.
- Our natural, physical eyes cannot see into the spirit world, unless God opens them.
- But the spirit world can see everything in our physical world.
- This Earth operates in a physical realm because we have physical bodies, made up of the Earth.
- However, inside your body is a spirit, which operates in Heaven, which is a spirit realm; in the same manner as on Earth.
- You can touch, taste, and smell things just like on Earth, only in Heaven, all your senses are magnified--there are no hindrances.
- You do still have these senses and you experience emotions; you do not become some robot!

- You do not become invisible and you do not become an angel.

Hebrews 11:16

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

- Heaven is the better country
- God has prepared a city for us
- There is a city where the river of life flows from under the throne
- There are miles of countryside
- Fields of indescribable beautiful flowers that sing! -- everything in Heaven praises God!
- Even the rocks cry out!
- Everything reflects the glory of God
- The streets of gold are transparent, reflecting the light of the life of God!
- You don't need to purchase things--the only thing purchased there are the Redeemed; everything is free, because it is 'given'.
- Everyone has **assignments** rather than jobs and they are always connected to your particular gift, which makes it a joy to do!
- All gifts and talents are used to benefit **others**
- God wants to bless His people and one of the ways He expresses love is by creating things that will delight us.
- God is the great Creator and Heaven is His home, so why wouldn't it be exciting and fascinating to live there?

Acts 10:1-4

Now living at Caesarea there was a man whose name was Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Regiment. A devout man who venerated God and treated Him with reverential obedience, as did all his household; and he gave much alms to the people and prayed continually to God. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God entering and saying to him, Cornelius! And he, gazing intently at him, became frightened and said, 'What is it, Lord?' and the angel said to him, Your prayers and your generous gifts to the poor have

come up as a sacrifice to God and have been remembered by Him.

- God was so impressed with Cornelius's goodness towards the poor that He wanted to make sure he had the opportunity to hear the Gospel.
- We cannot get Eternal life through our works; only accepting Jesus' sacrifice qualifies you for that
- However, when we live our lives unselfishly, as Cornelius did, we too build a memorial in Eternity with our generosity!
- **Just think about it--your unselfish acts of kindness and sacrifice decorate Heaven through beautiful memorials--** parks, statues and plaques--Father God remembering the good you've done in the Earth and honoring you in Heaven

Eternal Planning--salvation is free, but your life lived now, determines your eternal position!

- You are actually the one who determines your eternal position!
- People do many types of planning in their lifetime: estate planning, retirement planning, vacation planning, home building planning, career planning, etc.
- The most important, but most overlooked planning is Eternal Planning
- I'm talking about something far beyond eternal salvation--I'm talking about Eternal Position, which once set--will never be changed.
- You can work towards it until you die or are changed at the rapture, after that there is not much you can do.
- That means you find out what God's purpose is for your life and you accomplish it! He has a destiny for all of us.
- One of the most important things you will be held accountable for will be what God called you to do with your life.
- We all have specific destinies and God gives us the gifts, talents and grace to accomplish it.
- If you don't know or you aren't sure what your calling is, seek God and He will reveal it to you.
- You will not be excused from fulfilling God's purpose for your life because you never found out what He wanted from you.
- You will have no reward for doing your own 'stuff' if you have not

accomplished God's 'stuff'.

Make sure your life counts for the Kingdom of God!