



Week 2: Eternity – Ecclesiastes 3:11

Ice Breaker: Life is short; here today and gone tomorrow. How does the brevity of life affected your decision making—if it does—for better or worse?

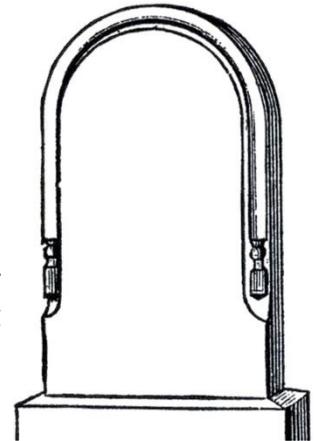
“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11 ESV

“Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.” NLT

Main Point:

1. Eternity is real and our hearts know it.
2. Eternity is not a unilateral reality—a choice must be made.

Ecclesiastes 9:3-5, “the hearts of the children of man are full of evil...and after their lives are done they go to the dead. But he who is joined with all the living has hope...For the living know that they will die...”



Question 1: There is a 1 in 1 probability we will die. For you, what do you want to be said about you at the end of your life? What do you want your epitaph (words on the gravestone) to say?

In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis, notes

“A continual looking forward to the eternal world is...*one of the things a Christian is meant to do*. ... It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in [transforming the world].”

Question 2: God has placed eternity in the hearts of people because that is the overarching narrative of Scripture. We were created to think about eternity.

How does viewing the Christian life as entering into the eternal plan of God change your life prospective?

How does thinking on eternity make us more effective on earth?

Eternity is not a unilateral reality—a choice must be made.

Jesus' Words

Matthew 25:30, "...the worthless servant [will be cast] into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 25:31-46, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'... Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'... And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Three groups of people:

- a) You have made a decision to receive Jesus as Savior and you are committed to walking with Him.
- b) You have never come to a point of committing your life Christ.
- c) You are a straying Christian. You once were committed but you've backed off.

Question 3: Of the three groups of people, where did you place yourself? Will you make a decision today to (re)commit yourself to Jesus?

If you made a decision to (re)commit yourself to Jesus, what should be the next step in your walk with Christ? Discuss with your group a practical next step to grow in your relationship with Christ.

Question 4: In these months we've been called to reach out to our community. Who's the one lost person that you're choosing to love? Does the reality of an unbeliever's Christ-less eternity motivate you to share the Gospel with them? Why or why not?