

## Eternity

Job asked, “If a man \_\_\_\_\_, will he live again?” (Job 14:14). Today, we’re exploring the effects of this life on our \_\_\_\_\_ destiny. The Scriptures open our \_\_\_\_\_ to God who made us, the God who gives us life, and the God who will one day \_\_\_\_\_ us. Each of us has an eternal destiny beyond this life, and the Word of God gives us wisdom to \_\_\_\_\_ for life beyond the grave. We hope and pray you’re prepared to meet God one day.

Someone said, “We live in a clock-eyed world”; we’re all \_\_\_\_\_ to schedules and deadlines. We can’t escape the urgency of \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus said, “We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work” (John 9:4). All this \_\_\_\_\_ for our time in this life can lead us to forget or to ignore the idea of our eternal destiny. So we must \_\_\_\_\_ from our spiritual complacency and realize that God’s commandments and His will for our lives really do matter. Romans 13:11-12 says, “Do this, knowing the time, that it’s already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

If we remain in spiritual darkness, and we fail to come to the Lord, we’re going to \_\_\_\_\_ an eternity without God’s blessing and promises. But if we put on the armor of \_\_\_\_\_ and fill our lives with faith, hope, love, and the word of God, we can live with God eternally. Jesus suffered for your sins, the just for the unjust, to bring you to God. Where will you spend eternity?

**Our reading today comes from a prayer of Moses found in Psalm 90:1-4.**

Thinking about eternity brings many important \_\_\_\_\_ to mind. First, God is eternal, but we live only for a time on this earth. We’re destined for something \_\_\_\_\_ than this life. Compare what Moses prayed in Psalm 90:1-2 with verse 10. “Lord, you’ve been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are \_\_\_\_\_” (verses 1-2). God has always existed, but God said our existence on earth is quite \_\_\_\_\_. He said in verse 10, “The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon \_\_\_\_\_, and we fly away.”

James 4:14 reminds us, “Yet you do not know what your life will be like \_\_\_\_\_. You’re just a vapor that appears for a \_\_\_\_\_ while and then vanishes away.” The ancient man Job said, “Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and \_\_\_\_\_ of turmoil” (Job 14:1). As we age, it seems the days and months pass \_\_\_\_\_ than before.

God is not \_\_\_\_\_ by time like we are. Paul praised God as “the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever” (1 Timothy 1:17).

Second Peter 3:8 says, “But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” Even if you lived to be a hundred years old, that is only one tenth of a thousand. God created time for \_\_\_\_\_, but He’s not controlled by time. He knows the past, He knows the present, and the future.

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**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

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This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

There's more than this life on earth! The Lord Jesus warns us, "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the \_\_\_\_\_ and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has \_\_\_\_\_ to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!" (Luke 12:4-5). The Scriptures give us \_\_\_\_\_ of those who have died and yet are still in a conscious existence. Matthew 17:1-3 tells of Jesus having a conversation with Moses and Elijah. Both had been dead for several centuries!

The Lord Jesus said to the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection, "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He's not the God of the \_\_\_\_\_ but of the \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 23:31-32) Yes, though Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were dead physically, they were alive in the hereafter.

After the death of her brother Lazarus, the Lord told Martha that he would \_\_\_\_\_ again. Martha said, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; and he who believes in Me will \_\_\_\_\_ even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will \_\_\_\_\_ die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world" (John 11:23-27). Do you believe this?

Romans 14:7-9 says, "For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living." We \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus in life and in death. Because of Him we have a \_\_\_\_\_ of new life and a new body. Second Corinthians 5:1 says, "For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house (that is, this body we now have) is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with \_\_\_\_\_, eternal in the heavens." We're going to have a new imperishable, immortal body in heaven one day.

We have \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ of the life to come. Ephesians 2:4-7 says, "But God, being rich in \_\_\_\_\_, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were \_\_\_\_\_ in our transgressions, made us \_\_\_\_\_ together with Christ (by grace you've been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the \_\_\_\_\_ to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

Second, God \_\_\_\_\_ to us about eternity. Psalm 90:1-2 say, "Lord, you have been our dwelling \_\_\_\_\_ throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Everlasting to everlasting is really kind of hard to understand; it's \_\_\_\_\_ time. Ecclesiastes 3:11 reveals that "He (God) has \_\_\_\_\_ everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their \_\_\_\_\_, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end." To people who can only think in \_\_\_\_\_ of start and finish, eternity is beyond our understanding. Eternity refers to "infinite time, \_\_\_\_\_ beginning or end." We might speak of something we experience that goes on and on, lasting an "eternity"; but that's only a \_\_\_\_\_ of speech. Eternal things have \_\_\_\_\_ end.

We can offer illustrations, but they're insufficient to fully \_\_\_\_\_ eternity. For instance, when ten thousand times ten thousand times ten thousand years have passed, eternity will have just \_\_\_\_\_. I recall as a boy my father speaking about eternity this way: Now suppose you could

suspend a rope from here to the moon, some 221,000 to 253,000 miles from the earth. And let's send an ant on that rope all the way to the moon and let him pick up one grain of soil from the moon and bring it back. In the time that it would take for an ant to bring back the entire moon grain by grain, that's just the beginning of eternity. Eternity is infinite time, without beginning or end; and it refers to something that time does not and cannot \_\_\_\_\_.

Third, the consequences of our \_\_\_\_\_ will last for an eternity, yes. Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man \_\_\_\_\_, this he will also \_\_\_\_\_. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap \_\_\_\_\_ life." Some Christians imagine they can \_\_\_\_\_ all they like and still go to heaven. But sowing to the flesh will only bring corruption and condemnation.

Romans 8:12-13 speaks clearly, "So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--for if you are living according to the flesh, you must \_\_\_\_\_; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will \_\_\_\_\_." When a person dies spiritually, he forfeits his \_\_\_\_\_ of living with God eternally. Sin breaks God's heart and it \_\_\_\_\_ us from God. Isaiah 59:1-2 say, "Behold, the LORD'S \_\_\_\_\_ is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His \_\_\_\_\_ so dull That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His \_\_\_\_\_ from you so that He does not hear."

Let's consider some things that will separate us from God. The Lord Jesus said, "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will \_\_\_\_\_ forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will \_\_\_\_\_ forgive your transgressions" (Matthew 6:14-15). Whether we're willing to forgive is a serious matter to God, and it should be to each of us.

Some unfairly rush to judge others, without considering their \_\_\_\_\_ sins. Like the Pharisees they condemn others over man-made traditions or their own \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus said, "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way that you judge, you will be judged; and by your \_\_\_\_\_ of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, there is a log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see \_\_\_\_\_ to take the speck out of your brother's eye" (Matthew 7:1-5). If people realized the consequences of how harshly and unfairly they have condemned others, they might not judge so \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord wants us to be fair as we consider others. Jesus said "Do not judge according to \_\_\_\_\_, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

Some never consider the \_\_\_\_\_ who are hurting and need help. Love for God means loving others enough to \_\_\_\_\_ them. First John 3:16-18 says, "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." According to Matthew 25:40, when we serve others, we're serving the Lord Himself. "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." He said to those who \_\_\_\_\_ to help their brothers "'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And then He said, 'these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life'" (verses 45-46). Please notice: eternal punishment lasts just as \_\_\_\_\_ as eternal life.

So we must be careful \_\_\_\_\_ we live our lives. Ephesians 5:15-17 says, “Therefore be careful how you walk (that is, how you live), not as unwise men but as wise, making the \_\_\_\_\_ of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is.” Some people think that because God is love, He’ll never hold us accountable for anything; but nothing could be farther from the truth. The passing pleasures of sin are just not worth an eternity separated from God. Some people imagine they can feed their pet sin, and there’ll be no consequences to their actions.

Hebrews 3:12-14 says, “Take \_\_\_\_\_, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that \_\_\_\_\_ away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of \_\_\_\_\_. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold \_\_\_\_\_ the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.” What about you? Your eternity is hanging in the \_\_\_\_\_, and the Lord is waiting on you to come to Him, and come with love and faith and \_\_\_\_\_. Won’t you come to the Lord? Won’t you love Him and serve Him?

Solomon said, “Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to \_\_\_\_\_ for all these things” (Ecclesiastes 11:9). Life can be filled with many things, and what we \_\_\_\_\_ matters. Solomon himself followed his impulses and learned that they didn’t give him \_\_\_\_\_ contentment. He said, “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole \_\_\_\_\_ of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Psalm 90:12 says, “So teach us to \_\_\_\_\_ our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Realizing life on earth is limited can cause us to \_\_\_\_\_ up. Where you and I spend eternity \_\_\_\_\_ on whether we’ve stayed close to God, whether the blood of Jesus has cleansed us, and whether we have believed and obeyed the Lord. There is a life beyond. If we become consumed with the \_\_\_\_\_, we may miss the beauty and joy of an \_\_\_\_\_ heaven.

Please, get that heart of wisdom! Love the Lord! Place your faith and trust in Him and in His words. Turn from sin and live in righteousness. Confess the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Be baptized into Christ, immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins. That’s what the inspired apostle Peter told the people to do in Acts 2:38 at the very beginning of the church and it’s what we still need to do to be right with God. You see, that’s how we’re born again and how we become children of God and heirs of heaven.

We ask that you focus your heart on God today by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. There’s probably a church of Christ in your area. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll be happy to help you find one.