

## Eternity

[www.cvillechurch.com](http://www.cvillechurch.com)

### Introduction: Do You Have Questions About Eternity?

- A. Do you believe in an afterlife in which all who die will enter an eternal realm?
- B. Have you ever wondered what eternity would be like, only to have trouble imaging clearly such a reality, such an incredible existence?
- C. What is eternity all about? Should we be that concerned about what eternity entails?
- D. Inevitably, questions about eternity also leads people to questions about life and an examination to the meaning of life.

### I. Our Understanding of Eternity Comes From God.

- A. Though man is bound by time, we have the capacity to imagine eternity (**Eccles. 3:11**), that hidden time period beyond this present world.
  - 1. We cannot fathom nor comprehend all that God has accomplished from beginning to end in all that He has made.
  - 2. However, everyone of us has the ability to understand eternity!
  - 3. God will “set eternity in our hearts” as we come to see His eternal power in this world that He has made (**Rom. 1:20**).
- B. By looking to the eternity of God, we may comprehend what eternity is.
  - 1. God “*inhabits eternity*” or “*lives forever*” (**Isa. 57:15**).
  - 2. He is “*the everlasting Father*” (**Isa. 9:6**).
  - 3. God has always existed; He is without beginning and will never end (**Rev. 1:8**). God is the “I AM” (**Exod. 3:14**).

### II. Imagine Your Existence in Eternity!

- A. Like God, our existence in eternity will last forever and ever.
  - 1. The duration of God’s existence stretches backward in time without limit and stretches forward in time without limit (**Ps. 90:2**). – He is eternal or forever God.
  - 2. All who enter eternity will stay in eternity forever and ever (**Mat. 25:46**).
- B. Just as the years of God have no end, the years of eternity will have no end.
  - 1. A good number of years of life on earth lasts a mere 80 or 90 years (**Ps. 90:10**), a very short moment of time in comparison to eternity!
  - 2. As the years of God’s existence have no end, neither will the years of our existence have no end in eternity (**Ps. 102:27**).
  - 3. A lifetime seems like a long time, yet it is very brief (**Jas. 4:14; Job 8:9**).
  - 4. In eternity, the years are countless, without number, far beyond all comparison to any amount of time we have known or have measured in earthly history!
  - 5. There is no way to measure the infinite, unlimited time or years in eternity!
- C. Yet, time will be insignificant in eternity.
  - 1. To God, no matter how long or how short it is, time is insignificant (**Ps. 90:4**).
  - 2. The life span of Methuselah (**Gen. 5:27**) was like one single day! (**2 Peter 3:8**).
  - 3. When we enter into eternity, the issue of time will be a non-issue or irrelevant having no bearing on eternity itself.

### III. Now Imagine Eternity in Heaven or Hell.

A. An eternity in Heaven means fellowship with God, joy, delight, and rest forever and ever (**1 Thes. 4:17; Rev. 21:3-4; Heb. 4:9-11; Mat. 11:29**) – *one continual day of light where no evil exists (Rev. 21:23-27; 22:5).*

B. An eternity in Hell means separation from God or everlasting destruction (**2 Thes 1:9**), torture by unquenchable fire, and no rest forever and ever (**Rev 14:10; 20:10-15; Mark 9:43-48**) – *one continual day of darkness where all weep and are in anguish (Mt. 8:12).*

C. Depending on one's eternal destination (heaven or hell), entrance into eternity that will last forever and ever may or may not be a good thing!

### IV. Are You Preparing for Eternity?

A. If you live only for “the here and now” on earth, then you truly do not believe in eternity nor understand that eternity lasts forever! – *You live as a fool! (Luke 12:15-21).*

B. How we spend our lives on earth will determine our future in eternity, a future that lasts forever and ever!

1. What we “sow” in this life has a direct impact on what we shall reap in the life to come (**Gal. 6:7-8**).

2. Riches or material possessions, for example, do not provide hope of eternal life (**1 Tim. 6:17-19**).

C. Preparing for eternity takes up much time and effort, yet is well worth an eternity in Heaven to be with the Lord!

1. How much time and effort are you willing to put forth to prepare for eternity?

*“For a little reward men make a long journey; for eternal life many will scarce lift a foot once from the ground.”* -- Thomas a Kempis

2. If we want to be ready for the Judgment and enter eternity, we must prepare by taking heed to the words of Jesus Christ (**Mat. 7:24-27**).

3. When “*the storm of the Lord*” arrives on Judgment day (**Jer. 23:19**), will you be ready to enter eternity?

### V. All People Will Enter Into Eternity, Some Into Eternal Life, Others Into Eternal Death.

A. All people will have to face the judgment of God after death (**Heb. 9:27**).

B. Each person will be held accountable for their deeds (**2 Cor. 5:10**) and whether or not they believed in Jesus (**John 3:36**) and obeyed His gospel (**2 Thes. 1:7-10**).

C. Only Christians who “set their minds on things above” and live for the Lord in this life will receive the free gift of eternal life in eternity.

1. Christians are given everlasting life – a gift of endless time to be together with the Lord forever and with all those who are of the family of God (**Rom. 6:23**).

2. This is God's gift to Christians. – Only true Christians will receive it.

3. If you want the gift of eternal life and spend an eternity with the Lord, obey His gospel! (**John 3:16; Rom. 10:9; Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10**).

4. If you have, make sure that you are always ready for eternity (**Col. 3:1-4**).

**Conclusion: Where You Will Be in Eternity is Up to You! Obey the Gospel and Remain Faithfully Obedient So You May Go to Heaven and Be with the Lord for All Eternity.**