

Eternity

Eternity is in some ways a difficult thing to grasp. Most things have a beginning and an end, so that is how our minds tend to think. God has no beginning and no end, so that concept can be difficult for us to wrap our minds around. Our eternal life, which begins after we die here on earth, can also be a difficult concept. Eternity, or our eternal life, is everlasting or it has no end. So where we go for all of forever, or eternity, is a big deal. Once we die, we are locked in forever to eternity in Heaven or Hell. In this lesson we look at some of the things the Bible has to say about eternity.

Man and Time

Job 14:1 “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” and **Psalm 90:10** “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” Our time on earth is not long. No matter how long we live, even 100 years, it is a drop in a bucket compared to how long eternity is. Eternity is forever so 100 years is nothing. Don’t you want to spend forever in Heaven, as opposed to Hell? There are only two options.

James 4:14 “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” No matter how wonderful or horrible our lives on earth are they pass very quickly and are gone. In fact, our lives can end suddenly or unexpectedly at any time. An illness, accident, or sadly a murder can end our lives in an instant. We have no guaranteed length of time we will be on earth. Also, we don’t know when Jesus will come again, it could be in hundreds of years or before you finish your next thought. Jesus returning could end our time on earth any second. Because eternity is forever in Heaven or Hell shouldn’t we preparer for it so we can go to Heaven?

Everlasting Life

Matthew 19:29 “And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.” and **Mark 10:29-30** “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.” We will all live eternally in Heaven or Hell. However, those that have obeyed God and put Him first in their lives will be in Heaven for all eternity. There is nothing inherently sinful about the things listed in this verse, and as long as they are not more important than God, there is nothing sinful about enjoying these things or many other pleasures in life. However, they must be less important than God to obtain salvation. Eternal life in Heaven is a reward well worth the effort.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” God loves all mankind and wants to save us all. Because He loves us, He gave the greatest possible gift to us, a way to gain

salvation. However, we must do our part by obeying God or we will not be in Heaven. Those that do not obey God will be in Hell eternally. If one truly believes in Jesus, they will follow His commandments into Heaven.

John 4:14 “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

Jesus gave us His teachings, in the New Testament, so that we can know beyond all doubt what we must do to be saved. If we absorb and follow His Word, salvation for all eternity is our reward.

John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” and **John 6:40** “And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Jesus gave us the key to eternity in Heaven with the New Testament. If we hear the gospel and truly believe it, we will obey it, and remain faithful unto death. We will then be in Heaven eternally. If we hear the Word and do not believe it, we will not obey it and miss eternal salvation. We have to remember someone that does not obey the Word of God does not truly believe what is written in the Bible. Heaven will not be open to those that do not show their belief through their obedience. Belief without obedience is not true belief.

John 5:28-29 “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” On Judgement Day all those that have died while living faithful to Christ will go to Heaven. All that have died not being faithful Christians will miss Heaven eternally.

John 6:27 “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.” and **Galatians 6:8** “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Spending one’s life neglecting their soul is a waste of a life. No matter what heights someone might obtain during their lifetime, to not prepare their soul for eternity, is to miss Heaven and gain eternity in Hell. The things of this earth like riches and glory are nice, but cannot help one obtain eternity in Heaven. Enjoying this life is well and good, but to not prepare for eternity is to lose your soul in the end.

Romans 6:22-23 “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross opened up a pathway we can walk straight to Heaven for all eternity. We can obey God and follow the New Testament He gave us, through inspired writers, escaping the chains of sin and gaining eternal salvation. We can choose to walk on that path to eternity in Heaven, or choose the path of sin and eternity in Hell.

Everlasting Punishment

Matthew 18:8-9 “Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.” Nothing in this life is worth spending eternity in Hell for. Make the changes in your life you need to, in order to spend eternity in Heaven.

Matthew 25:30 “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” and **Matthew 25:41-46** “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” The Bible tells us on Judgement Day the unfaithful or unprepared will be punished with eternal fire, in Hell. We are told their actions, while on earth, are the reason they are sent to Hell. Hell is a real place that those who have failed to live as God would have them live will spend all of eternity in. While, we in our human minds don't fully know what Hell will be like, the Bible does give us some level of description of it, in a way our human minds can comprehend. Hell sounds horrible and it is eternal.

Mark 9:43-48 “And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” Hell is a terrible place of never ending torment that there is no escape from, once you are there. The Bible is not advocating cutting parts of your body off. The Bible is saying, get rid of the parts of your life that would keep you from going to Heaven. The Bible is saying, no matter what you must remove from your life to live obedient to God, and avoid Hell, and go to Heaven it is well worth it.

Luke 16:19-31 “There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But

Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” In this small window into eternal life we are given in the Bible we learn a few things. People that die before Judgment Day are waiting for it in a place of comfort, or a place of torment. The beggar Lazarus is in comfort because of his life choices, the rich man was in torment because of his life choices. The rich man does not want to be there, but has no way to escape his torment. The rich man wants a way to warn the living family he has, that they need to make changes to avoid ending up like him. He is told that the living have what they need to avoid the place of torment already. We don't learn much about Lazarus's experience other than he seems to be in comfort, and have none of the worries that the rich man does. We also see that having it good in this life does not necessarily get us into Heaven, it has nothing to do with it. Having it bad in this life does not necessarily get us into Hell, it has nothing to do with it. Today we have the Bible. It is from God through inspiration, and gives us all we need to go to Heaven, and therefore avoid Hell. Do you want to be like Lazarus or the rich man for all of eternity?

Romans 2:7-10 “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile” Notice that there are only two categories of people, those that obey the truth and those that do not. One cannot partly obey the truth because partial obedience is disobedience. The disobedient will face God's wrath and have anguish. All the unfaithful will be in Hell. This sounds horrible and scary. However, being one that is obedient to the truth avoids all this, because they will not be in Hell, but rather Heaven. Eternity is forever. You and I will be in Heaven or Hell forever.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” On the day of judgement, whenever that is, Jesus will punish all that have not been obedient to the Gospel with eternal destruction in Hell. This is actually very easy to understand. Obedience to the Word of God leads to Heaven. Disobedience to the Word of God leads to Hell. When Jesus comes, which group do you want to be in, the obedient or disobedient? Right now while you live and breathe you can get yourself into the obedient group. One second after death your choice is set for all eternity. (Someone that has lost their mental capacity, due to accident or illness, would be in the same category as someone that had died. One second after they lost their mental

capacity their choice is locked in for all eternity.) Unless of course, because we do not know when Jesus will return, He returns in our lifetime. Should Jesus return in our lifetime then our choices for all eternity are already set by our own actions. Because we do not know when Judgment Day will be, is why it is so important to get ready for it now. Tomorrow may be too late.

Jude 5-7 “I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” God has given us many examples that He will not accept the disobedience. He has promised that He will reward the faithful with Heaven and the unfaithful with Hell. Knowing that God means what He says what will you do, be obedient or disobedient?

Revelation 20:10 “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Hell is for ever and ever. Hell is nothing but torment. Wouldn't you rather be in Heaven for all eternity?

Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” This is pretty simple. People that are not believers will spend eternity in Hell with murderers and all kinds of other disobedient people. God puts unbelievers on the same level as murderers and the other types of sinners, that are listed in the above passage. Simply not believing in God will lead to eternal life in Hell. Individuals that say they believe in God, but are not actually obedient to God's Word are also unbelievers, because they do not believe they need to follow God's will. Sadly, this is going to include a lot of people. Do you want to be in this sad but large group that is lost forever?

Conclusion

Hopefully, we can understand how important our eternal life will be, forever in Heaven or Hell. Unending joy, or unending torment. Please, take the time to examine yourself and consider which path you are on. If you are on the path to eternity in Heaven, stay on that path. However, if you are on the path to eternity in Hell, change that path while you still can.