

Living With Eternity In View

II Cor. 4:16-18

II Cor. 4:16-18

- 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward [man] is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Eccl. 3:11

- 11 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.

The Things Which Are Seen Are Temporal

- ***This material universe will not last forever.***
 - 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, (II Pet. 3:10-11)

The Things Which Are Seen Are Temporal

- ***Our lives and activities on this earth.***

– 2 It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. 3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. 4 But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. 5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun. (Eccl. 9:2-6; cf. Heb. 9:27)

The Things Which Are Seen Are Temporal

- **Our lives and activities on this earth.**

- 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matt. 24:37-39; cf. I Jn. 2:15-17)

The Things Which Are Seen Are Temporal

- ***Material possessions will not last.***
 - 15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Lk. 12:15)
 - 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' (Lk. 12:20)
 - 18 I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, 19 and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. (Eccl. 2:18-19)

The Things Which Are Not Seen Are Eternal

- ***God Is eternal.***

- Ps. 41:13 → 13 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
- Job. 38:4 → 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.
- Ps. 90:1-2 → 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

The Things Which Are Not Seen Are Eternal

- ***The Word of God Is Eternal.***

- LORD, Your word is forever; it is firmly fixed in heaven. (Ps. 119:89 – HCSB)
- 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (I Pet. 1:22-25)
- ...and Scripture cannot be broken-- (Jn. 10:35)
- 48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (Jn. 12:48)

The Things Which Are Not Seen Are Eternal

- ***Heaven is eternal.***

- Mark 10:30 → 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.
- Rev 21:3-4 → 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
- I Pet. 1:4 → 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

The Things Which Are Not Seen Are Eternal

- ***Hell is everlasting in duration.***

- Matt. 25:46 → 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
- Rom 2:8-9 → 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;
- Mark 9:43-44 → 43 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: 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

The Things Which Are Not Seen Are Eternal

- ***Each one has an eternal destiny.***

- Matt. 10:28 → And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- Matt. 25:46 → 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
- II Cor. 5:1 → 1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Living With Eternity In View...

- Will sharpen our perspective.
 - (Eccl. 12:13)
- Will fix our priorities.
 - (Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-2)
- Will order our relationships with others.
 - (Titus 2:10; I Tim. 4:12; II Cor. 4:13)
- Will prepare us for the end of all things.
 - (I Pet. 4:7-11; II Pet. 3:8-15)