

A person is walking away from the viewer on a long, straight, light-colored path that stretches towards a bright horizon. The path is flanked by a vast, flat, dark landscape. The sky is a gradient of blue and white, suggesting a bright light source like the sun or moon. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

***GOD PUT ETERNITY INTO
YOUR HEART***

Eccl. 3:11

Ecclesiastes 3:11

- 11 He has made everything appropriate in its time He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. (NASB)
- 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.

Introduction

■ *One of the loftiest concepts in scripture is eternity.*

- Eternal: everlasting, never ending, for ever and ever.
- Nothing here in our earthly existence to compare. We are familiar with that which has a beginning and an end.
 - *Workday*
 - *Football game*
 - *School year*
 - *Life here on this earth*
- Solomon speaks of it as being put into the heart of man. Sense that there is something beyond this life. (II Cor. 4:17-18)
- Lesson: How should this contrast between those things that are temporary and eternal help us in our lives?

Things That Are Eternal

God is eternal. (Ps. 90:1-2; I Tim. 1:17)

- God who is eternal brought all things into existence. (Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1; Heb. 3:4)

God's word stands forever. (I Pet. 1:22-23)

- Produces faith and the new birth. (Jn. 3:3-5)
- It is living, active, relevant, powerful. (Heb. 4:11-12; Jn. 10:35)
- It cannot be rendered invalid by the standards of society, human creeds, etc. (Matt. 15:9)
- It will be the standard by which we are judged. (Jn. 12:48)

Things That Are Eternal

- Heaven → the everlasting home of the saved.
 - Mk. 10:30; Rev. 21:3-4; 22:1-5
- Hell → the eternal punishment of those who are lost.
 - Everlasting punishment – prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matt. 25:41,46; Rom. 2:8-9)
 - Mark 9:43-44 → The fire is never quenched.
- The soul → Continues to live on after death. (Js. 2:26)
 - Heb. 12:9; Gen. 1:26-28
 - Matt. 10:28; Lk. 16:19-31

Things That Are Temporary

- This material universe.
 - (II Pet. 3:10-11a)
- Our earthly lives and activities.
 - (I Jn. 2:15-17; Eccl. 9:2-6; Heb. 9:27)
- Material things → the things that we possess, that money can buy.
 - (Lk. 12:15, 20; I Tim. 6:7)

What Effect Do These Things Have On Your Life?

- It should focus us on our ultimate purpose. (Eccl. 12:13-14; Acts 17:27)
- Help us to order our priorities. (Col. 3:1-2; Matt. 6:33)
 - How do we spend our time, energy, resources; the choices that we make...
- Govern our relations with others. (Titus 2:10; I Tim. 4:12; II Cor. 4:13)
- Motivate us to prepare for the coming of Jesus. (II Pet. 3:9-14)