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Eternity

This week we are looking at Eternity and asking “is it really unbelievable to think that there is eternal life or eternal death after this life we are currently living?”

“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit” -C.S. Lewis

Your view of eternity effects how you live today.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV) - ²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:7 (NKJV) - ⁷ And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

God breathed into man the breath of life...

Breath:

Transliteration: nshamah

Pronunciation: neh-shaw-maw'

Phonetic Spelling: (nesh-aw-maw')

Definition: Breath, spirit, soul

Life:

Transliteration: chay

Pronunciation: khah'-ee

Phonetic Spelling: (khah'-ee)

Definition: Alive, living, life

“You don’t have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.” -C.S. Lewis

Job 33:4 (NKJV) - The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Verses about eternity/eternal life:

Ecclesiastes 3:11a (NLT) - ¹¹ Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart . . .

John 3:16 (NIV) - ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 5:10-13 (NLT) - ¹⁰ All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don’t believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don’t believe what God has testified about his Son.¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life.¹³ I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

Other scripture references to eternity: Matthew 19:29; John 5:24; John 6:47; John 10:28; John 17:3; Romans 6:23; Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25; 1 John 5:20

Salvation of your SOUL:

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NLT) - ³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this

salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. ⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. ⁸ You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

New Eternal Body:

2 Corinthians 5:1-4 (NLT) - For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. ² We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. ³ For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. ⁴ While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.

It is clear that the Bible teaches that we are created for eternity. Some will spend eternity in eternal life (heaven with God), but some will spend eternity in eternal death (hell apart from God).

Luke 16:19-31 (NKJV)

What would the skeptic say about the soul?

They would say there is no such thing as the soul. There is the brain that has evolved and through the brain we have learned to have feelings and emotions. They would say the brain is what gives us reason and consciousness. The atheist believes in what is called materialism which states that there is nothing in the universe outside of physical matter. All things can be explained by the material, so there is no such thing as a spirit or a soul.

Neuroscience

Neuroscience is uncovering a lot about how the brain works and how there is even consciousness apart from the brain that they are discovering. Sean McDowell just did an interview on his podcast of a neurosurgeon named Dr. Michael Egnor. Dr. Egnor presents the case that the brain alone does not explain the mind. Using modern neuroscience and his vast surgical experience, he believes there is a spiritual soul that transcends the brain and he uses fascinating case studies to prove his claim. The interview is based on a book Dr. Egnor wrote called “*The Immortal Mind*”. If you want to watch the interview you can go on onto Sean McDowell’s podcast on YouTube and watch it there. Its called “*Is the Soul Real? A Neurosurgeon Makes the Case*”.

NDE's (Near Death Experiences)

People have actually died or have been in situations where they are about to die, and claim they have experienced certain parts of heaven or certain parts of hell. John Burke wrote a book called “*Imagine Heaven*” where he writes about the over 1000 people he has interviewed that have had near death experiences and the similarities not only in all of their experiences, but how those experiences line up with what the Bible says about heaven and hell.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NLT) - ² I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows. ³ Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know ⁴ that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.

Your view of eternity effects how you live today.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT) - ¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.



Sermon Resources



Group Questions



Overtime Podcast