

ETERNITY IN OUR HEART Ecclesiastes 3:9-14 Bill Turner

He makes all things beautiful in His time — and He has placed Eternity in our Hearts

1. **Every culture, in every part of the world, has a concept of God...**
 - a. The largest 'Pyramid' in Egypt belongs to Khufu, an Egyptian Pharaoh.
 - b. Researchers believe it took around 10,000 highly skilled workers, around 50,000 of slaves, and 20 years of labor to build.
 - c. Why did Khufu put such a huge effort into building himself a tomb?
 - d. Egyptians believed in life after death They believed after death there was a judgement...
 - e. In the underworld Your soul was placed on a balance scale with a feather on the other side.
 2. **But the Egyptians were not alone...**

—**Babylonians, Mayans, Native Americans, Chinese, Japanese, Greeks...**

 - a. Every Culture has An Awareness of the Spirit, the Power and Judgement of God...
 - b. **But Why** would the most isolated primitive tribes, completely cut off from outside civilization have a concept of the 'Great Spirit in the Sky'?
 3. **WHY? HOW?: Because God placed Eternity in Our Hearts (Eccl. 3:9-14 esp. v.11)**
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I. THE FASCINATING FACT OF ETERNITY IN OUR HEART

A. GOD IS ETERNAL (Ps 90:1-2)

1. **God created the cosmos and He created time...**
 - a) *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Gen 1:1)*
 - b) In the very 1st verse of Bible: TIME, ENERGY, SPACE and MATTER
2. **As the Creator of Time—God is Outside of Time (2 Peter 3:8)**
 - a) *with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*
3. **God has a Purpose in His Plan For Time (3:1–8)**
 - a) *To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven*
4. **God has the ability to make all things beautiful in His time (3:11)**

B. GOD IS ETERNAL AND CREATED US IN HIS IMAGE (Gen 1:26-27)

1. **Since God is spirit — and created us in His image...**
2. **Created As a Living Soul (Genesis 2:7)**
3. **Created with a spirit within us... (Zechariah 12:1)**
 - a) (Zechariah 12:1) "Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him..."

C. GOD IS ETERNAL AND PLACED ETERNITY IN OUR HEARTS (Ecc. 3:11)

1. **With a Consciousness of Eternity...**
 - a) We have an awareness, or Consciousness of Eternity
 - b) we get discouraged in this life because we know there is something better
 - c) We know there's something better because God placed something better within us
2. **God placed Eternity in our heart—giving us an awareness of something better**

II. THE FASCINATING EFFECT OF ETERNITY IN OUR HEART

A. WE ARE PLACED BETWEEN TWO WORLDS...

1. WE EXIST BETWEEN TIME AND ETERNITY...

- a) Between Mortality and Immortality
- b) Between a Physical World and a Spiritual World

2. WITH A PHYSICAL NATURE—AND A SPIRITUAL NATURE...

- a) Our Bodies Are Made of Dust and Return to the Dust—
- b) Our spirit is Given By God and Returns to God! (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**)

3. WE HAVE A TEMPORARY BODY—AND AN ETERNAL SPIRIT

- a) We Live in a Temporary World of Change—But We Have Eternity in Our Hearts
- b) We are Subject to Time—But Will One Day Be Set Free from Time

“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience.” (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

B. WE ARE PULLED BETWEEN TWO WORLDS...

1. Pulled Between the Physical and the Spiritual

- a) Our Body and Spirit are so close together that when one catches a cold...
the other does as well! (CS Lewis)
- b) When our body is down our spirit is down...
- c) But Paul tells us that as we grow in faith, the Outward man is perishing, but the inward man is being renewed day by day

2. Pulled Between Time—and Eternity (**2 Corinthians 5:1–5 NIV**)

- a) We Live in a Mortal Body—But We Long to Be Clothed With Immortality
- b) God Fashioned Us This Way for a Purpose! (**5:5**)

3. We All Feel This Pull But We Don't Always Recognize What it is

- a) Without a Relationship with God through Jesus Christ there is a void within us
- b) We Try to Fill the Void with the Things of the World but We Still Feel Empty
- c) Because it is a God-Shaped Void that is infinitely Deep because it can only be filled by an infinite God

“We are restless, O God, until we find our rest in Thee.” (Augustine)

C. WE ARE PERPLEXED BETWEEN TWO WORLDS... (3:11b)

1. The Seasons and Storms of Life are Unsettling—

- a) The mystery of all the unanswered questions of time and eternity...
- b) of seasons and storms of life, cause anxiety and dismay for unbelievers...

2. But God's Word enables us to see the different seasons and storms of life, —NOT as something unsettling but as GOD'S UNFOLDING PLAN...

- a) *“The trouble for us is not that life refuses to keep still, but that we see only a fraction of it's movement and of it's subtle, intricate design. Instead of changelessness, there is something better: A dynamic, Divine purpose, with it's beginning and end.” (Derek Kinder, The Message of Ecclesiastes)*

3. We Know There's Something Better—

Because God Placed Something Better in Our Hearts!

- a) Although We are Desperately Near-Sighted, trying to see the big picture...
- b) “We see enough to recognize some of it's quality, but the grand design escapes us, for we can never stand back far enough to view it as it's Creator does, whole and entire, from beginning to end.” (Derek Kinder, The Message of Ecclesiastes)

4. The mystery of all the unanswered questions of time and eternity...

of seasons and storms of life, cause anxiety and dismay for unbelievers

—But Not For God's People—We Know God Has an Eternal Plan!

- a) He Has a Time and Purpose For His Works
- b) He Will Make All Things Beautiful in His Time!

III. THE FASCINATING REASON FOR ETERNITY IN OUR HEART

A. IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD... (v.12-13)

1. Your Life is a Gift From God — Your Spirit is a Gift From God...

- a) A gift from God, Whose Purpose is Known only by Him—and it is a Part of His Everlasting Work...

2. A Gift from God Means it is not earned and not deserved—it is a gift

- a) *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, from the Father...” (Js. 1:17)*

B. GOD DOES NOTHING IN VAIN—BUT FOR A PURPOSE... (v.14)

1. The Universe is not an accident and you are not an accident!

That's not how God works!

2. God Has a Purpose for His Works—And No One Can Hinder His Plans

- (1) God's Actions Are Permanent (it shall be forever)
- (2) God's Actions are Complete (nothing can be added to it)
- (3) God's Actions are Totally Secure (nothing taken from it)

So Why Did God Place Eternity in Your Heart?

C. YOU WERE NOT CREATED FOR THIS LIFE ONLY...

—BUT ALSO FOR ETERNITY (Matthew 16:26)

1. One soul is worth more than all the world...

- a) This May Be the Most Difficult Truth for People to Understand

2. The Irony: Even If You Gained the Whole World—it would not be enough

- a) What is eternal cannot be filled by what is temporary.

3. The whole world Could Not Satisfy your Soul because He placed eternity in our hearts ([Ecc. 3:11](#)).

The God shaped void in our heart is infinitely deep because it can only be filled by an infinite God!
“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy,
the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” — C.S. Lewis

D. YOU SHARE A PART OF GOD'S GRAND ETERNAL PLAN

1. God Has Redeemed You for a Reason! (Revelation 1:4–7 ESV)

- a) Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb—To Be in God's Eternal Kingdom!
- b) To be a Kingdom of Priests!
- c) To Give God Glory for His Majesty His Incredible Works

2. He Placed Eternity in Your Heart for an Eternal Reason

CS Lewis: "The mold in which a key is made would be a strange thing, if you had never seen a key: and the key itself a strange thing if you had never seen a lock. Your soul has a curious shape because it is a hollow made to fit a particular swelling in the infinite contours of the divine substance, or a key to unlock one of the doors in the house with many mansions." —C. S. Lewis

CONCLUSION:

(Jn 14:1) Jesus said:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's House are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you’

1. God Makes All Things Beautiful in His Time

And He Has Placed Eternity in Our Hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

2. We Can't See the Whole Picture from Beginning to End...

But He Does!

3. So We Must Have Faith...

Faith To Trust and Obey God

For This is Our Duty

“When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.” (Corrie Ten Boom)

Psalms 46—Be Still and Know that God is in Control