

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 36

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
Living in Light of Eternity

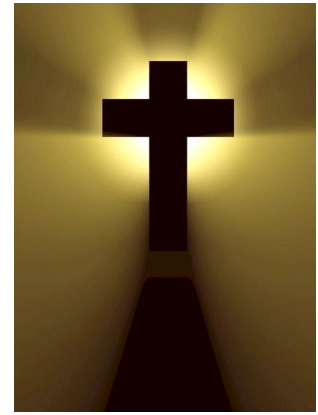


Wednesday, March 30 and
Thursday, March 31, 2011

ECC 3:11 "...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."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

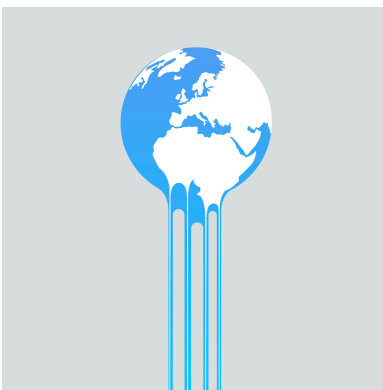


Lesson

In our last lessons we saw a part of our future challenge on earth when you understand that you have been given eternal life when you believed in Jesus Christ. Having eternal life challenges us to have faith that God knows everything we need on earth and He will provide it. When you understand that God has placed eternal life in you, you start to understand the importance of living your life in the light of eternity.



What I mean by this is that you must live each day as if it's your last day on earth and that you might be face to face with Jesus Christ at any time today! Think about that! How would you act? Would you be nasty and think only of yourself or would you want to please Jesus Christ? You really should do this each day to prepare yourself to reach your goal of spiritual maturity...act like it's your last day. This praises and honors God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. You have to believe that you may see Jesus today to stay on track and never miss a beat in your spiritual life. Once we look at it this way, our scale of values, our standards, our behavior in living becomes quite different. We will behave more like Christ! That is our goal because it glorifies HIM! God knows what He's doing, kids. You have no worries at all no matter what happens to you, your family, your friends or our country.



I'm telling you all of this because it is related to the greatest world catastrophe of all time...the destruction of the entire universe at the end of human history, not just this little tiny planet called earth, but the entire universe. Whatever survives the destruction of the universe at the end of human history makes up the highest and the permanent values of life at the present time. In other words, only what is worthwhile or good in God's plan is important now because that is what survives at the end of human history. What part of your life do you think will survive and what are you truly living for? Are you living for the material things of this world and for worldly goals in the few years you have here on this earth or are you living for what's

worthwhile in eternity with God? What survives destruction like that? I'll tell you that it's nothing you get from the Satan's world system...life here on earth and all it has to offer. What survives is the Word of God, **"which is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword..."** The Word of God is powerful and that's what you take with you into eternity with God forever.

There's a great verse that describes this principle in **ECC 3:11 "He has made everything**

appropriate in its time." That's the first conclusion and it is a correct conclusion! The word appropriate is the Hebrew adjective *japheh* (yaw-feh'); which means meaningful, beautiful, pleasant, well. So you can see this verse as **"He made everything meaningful or beautiful in its time."** If we understood this as living our life in light of eternity, we would see that our problem is not so much what happens to us here on earth, our problem is our point of view about what happens to us here on earth after it happens. So what if something bad happens to you...so what!!!! Are you going to whine like a baby and cry or complain? Or will you think, *"Jesus saved me and is sending me to heaven where I will live in perfect happiness for all of eternity, so what have I got to complain about here on earth?"*

We like things to end like fairy tales, you know, *"and they lived happily ever after..."* And when something occurs that we don't like and is not a happy ending, we begin to question the giver or the people involved in that particular thing that happens as if everything is about me...me...me etc, etc. But that's how we are isn't it? Be honest about it.

And sometimes, if we push it even further we might blame God and say something like, *"What kind of God is it that would allow this awful thing to happen to me?"* However, if you do not know about the angelic conflict (and most of you all know all about that invisible war) you'll miss out on the whole point here. If you don't recognize your personal eternal destiny (problem solving device number six), you WILL miss out on the whole point.

You see what we miss, kids, is God's timing. What we miss is God's priorities and values...His perfect plan and His perfect character...HE'S PERFECT, kids!!!!!!



If we look at life as God lays it out before us and as God gives us things that go wrong to deal with and don't see them through the eyes of faith and in light of eternity, we will not understand why these things happen to us and around us. We will NEVER GET IT!!! But when we realize that God is the author of life as it says in **Eze 18:4. "Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine..."** And again in **Gen 2:7 "Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed**

into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. God continues to give the breath of life to every single baby that was ever born or will be born until the end of time. He is the AUTHOR of physical life! And He has given us physical life and eternal life with Him (when we believed in His Son) and we must realize that He is the one who has determined our destiny...where we are going on earth and in heaven. **1 Thess 3:3 "...that no one be moved by these afflictions (sufferings). For you yourselves know that we are destined for this (some suffering)."** This Bible teaching allows us to understand why certain things happen to us that we may not want or like. But it is given to us by a perfect Father who knows EXACTLY what we need to stay in His plan while on earth. We will have happiness and suffering in God's plan.

Now you can understand the following:

Why a baby might die.

The reason for a young woman to lose her husband in a war or an accident.

The reason for doctrinal homes being broken up in divorce.

The reason for the cancer patient dying when God could heal and has the power to do so but doesn't.

The reason for the orphan and the problems that an orphan would face.

I can go on and on...as you know.



However, when I see things through His eyes and recognize His divine timing and my personal sense of destiny...on the way to perfect Heaven forever...I will realize the fact that in His time, He makes all things beautiful and meaningful for our benefit, and then I give Him

praise and so should you. This is so easy to teach, so easy to say, BUT so hard to understand or apply especially the suffering parts!

And so one of the many conclusions that a believer who recognizes that they have eternal life comes to is in this wonderful verse, **ECC 3:11 "...that God has made everything meaningful or beautiful in its time."**

The second conclusion has to do with your life. **ECC 3:11 "...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."** Now, think of this word eternity. But don't think of it like we usually do. You know...like something that we can't understand. Like something that is hard to make out. Something that sounds far beyond our ability to really understand or picture.

Eternity...how long is eternity? How do you get in touch with eternity? It's so massive. It's so hard to get a hold of. I remember as a kid trying to comprehend what it would be like to live forever. I kept thinking about the next day, and the day after that. That it would keep going and never end. I could never get my head around "never end". Everything I ever thought about had an ending. Maybe you think about it by taking the longest time you can come up with and adding to it. So a thousand years is closer to eternity than ten years. And ten years is closer to eternity than 5 years.

And so it stands to reason that the thing that is the least like eternity is a day, right? And if you really want to get exact about it, the opposite of eternity is this instant. Right now. That's what the mathematician will tell you. But what does God say? **Psalm 90:1-4 "Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. (2) Before the mountains were born or you gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. (3) You turn man back into dust and say, 'Return, O children of men.' (4) For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night."** **2 Pet 3:8 "But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."** God has not only put things in perspective by having a time table in which events run their course, He also has put within every human being's mind a curiosity about life, ...about the future...and about life beyond...eternity.

Now, as much as you love your dog or cat, they will never be concerned about their eternity. They may worry about a meal or some water, or protecting their young ones, or maybe even finding another one of their species in heat, but they will not be concerned about tomorrow! They live in the NOW for you! They NEVER think about future, okay? Do you know why? Because God has NOT placed eternity in their hearts!! And since that is true and since we cannot find out about tomorrow or the beginning from the end without God, we must seek Him first to understand these things. This means that you are not really ready to handle life until you are ready to handle the future, which is death and eternity. Everyone must face this. And when you have eternity figured out, it's amazing what it will do with time. So **ECC 3:11** says, **"He has made everything meaningful in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart (mind), without which (this desire for eternal things] mankind will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end."**



Now, the phrase **"He has also set eternity in their heart (mind)"** describes the tremendous grace of God reaching down to fallen man! The word eternity here means "the eternal" or "the desire for the eternal." In other words, God has placed a deep desire in man for what is in the future or what is eternal. There is a deep desire or a yearning for that which is eternal placed in the minds of all mankind. And, it is a very delicate and sensitive desire that can be delayed by arrogance, emotionalism, or even worry and it can be put out

altogether by hardness of the heart, scar tissue of the soul, or occupation with the details of life...the cosmic system of Satan...our world...in other words you're not interested in God or His plan for your life. This is the reason the majority of the world rejects the desire which God has placed within them. **THEY CHOOSE to REJECT IT!!!!** So you must understand that there is a desire for that which is eternal placed in every person's heart...your heart! I know you think about eternity and it may worry you especially if you don't quite understand it. After all, we are human and EVERYTHING we do has a beginning and an end here on earth!! God will give you the understanding if you study His Word and have faith He will show you the answers through His Word...keep going in His plan and it will become clearer and clearer for you...so RELAX okay?



Again even though this desire is in every person, every person does not have this desire fulfilled and the interesting thing is that the more this desire or need to understand eternity is fed with the Word of God, the stronger it becomes. So, having a desire for that which is eternal is not enough. The desire for that which is eternal still lacks the power by itself to move you forward to spiritual maturity. So, as you, the believer grows, your positive volition (desire to know God and His Word and plan) grows, being firmly grounded in the Truth, and your Christ-like thinking becomes your outlook on life. Then you become more interested in that which is eternal...because of Christ and what you are learning about Him. And the motivation of getting to know God and the real meaning and purpose of this life we were given on earth becomes an inspiration and a source of even greater blessing and happiness in the your life.



However, please note a very important principle; this desire is never automatic, any person at any time, in any stage of spiritual growth can become dull and destroy the need for that which is eternal within them. The person who does not have a desire for a relationship with God fulfilled will end up desiring many other things from the devil's world which can never fill that void or emptiness he will have...and he will have it. He will be driven to choose certain things in life that he thinks will fulfill this desire only to find out that nothing in this life can ever fill that void or emptiness because only God can fill as you take in His Word...TRUTH. In fact, if a person hopes for anything other than God to give them happiness, they will end up with a sick heart. See what the Bible says about this in **Proverbs 13:12. "Hope set aside makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled (by God) is a tree of life."** Such a frantic search for happiness, hoping that something in the world will give you happiness apart from God is hopeless and unsuccessful!



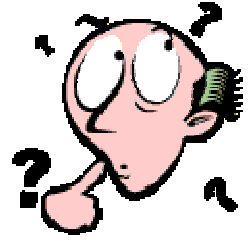
Man needs a relationship with God NOW or else he finds himself occupied with the past or the future. Do you know that most people never think of the present when it comes to their relationship with God? They're always waiting for something to happen or trying to make things happen. And so, most people never really live life in the present but are always hoping to live it some day. They are always getting ready to be happy but DUH they never become happy. They actually put being happy off by thinking this way.

Now, here's the point...in His grace God gives us passions and desires which can only be fulfilled in the present by Him. Now look again at **ECC 3:11. "He has made everything meaningful in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, (not yet so, but) without which (the setting of the desire for eternal things) mankind will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end."** And here's what can happen with that desire for that which is eternal...we can find out the work which God has done from the beginning even

to the end by studying His Word EVERYDAY. So God has placed the desire for that which is eternal within every member of the human race but some follow through, many do not! Don't be in the "many" group, okay?

And here is the amazing thing...but you'll have to wait until our next lesson to find out what that amazing thing is.

Close in prayer.



Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, November 21, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

