

## ETERNITY IN A FALLEN WORLD

Jesus Christ is the only answer to the eternal longing that dwells deep within us in this fallen world.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Adam and Eve, the first man and woman in human history, were created to have a relationship with God and to tend the Garden of Eden.
- ❖ Their relationship with God and the fruit of their labour were guaranteed. There was only one stipulation: they could not eat the fruit of one particular tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or else they would die.
- ❖ They were both fine with this arrangement...that is, until Satan entered the scene with temptation. "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" ...Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:1-4).
- ❖ Eve's driving motivation was to be like God—to be wise like God and to have the knowledge of good and evil. And so together with her husband Adam, she yielded to temptation and immediately suffered the consequences.
- ❖ Their relationships—with God and between themselves—were severely damaged, and the fruit of their labour was no longer guaranteed. In their yielding to temptation, they initiated humanity's fall from grace.
- ❖ Fast-forward to the time of King Solomon. Even though Solomon has the five books of Moses as his Bible, we find him grappling with the same desire for knowledge Eve displayed in Genesis.
- ❖ It is in this frame of mind that Solomon writes the book of Ecclesiastes, probing deeply into the nature of human existence, and concluding that the meaning of life cannot be understood solely through experience and observation.
- ❖ **No one can find out the work God does from beginning to end** (Ecc. 3:11). It is the Lord God—and He alone—who defines meaningful life.
- ❖ We can never have the full mind of God. If we did, we would be God. We cannot add to what God does, nor can we take away from it.
- ❖ **God has put eternity in our hearts.** Eternity refers to everything on either side of life; that is, before birth and after death. It also covers one's lifetime. The Bible tells us that God inhabits eternity. It tells us that He is the beginning and the end. He is the first cause, which means that He was not created but everything that exists emanates from Him.

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15; Genesis 3:14-19

- ❖ Solomon therefore states that it is God who defines meaningful life. It is God who gives a person all the days of their life, who ordered our days even before the world began. He has preeminence over everything that exists.
- ❖ Solomon writes that "God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work" (Ecc. 3:17). He "will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing—whether good or evil" (Ecc. 12:14).
- ❖ **Every person on this planet has a deep-seated desire to know God.** As noted earlier, God has placed eternity inside the heart of each person. The heart in this context refers to our feelings, will and intellect. It is the centre of our very being, and God has placed this desire for Himself and His eternal life within us.
- ❖ Yes, we have questions that our intellect demands answers to, and, yes, the issue of where we will spend eternity is a matter of our own free will. But... Deep inside, far beyond any point we can reach to wipe away, God's imprint is like a gaping hole within us. A hole that cannot be satisfied by anything but His own holy presence.
- ❖ There may be no human explanations or accurate answers for why things have happened to you or how specific evils can be corrected, but through it all there is Jesus. He is the one who will take care of the eternal longing that tugs at your heart. Forever.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. How were you first introduced to Jesus Christ? Was that introduction enough to establish a personal relationship with Him, or did you have to develop a relationship for yourself? What methods did you use to do so?
2. Before you developed your own relationship with God, was there a "missing piece" that existed inside of you? Did you try to fill this gaping hole? With what and how/when did you realize you could not be truly satisfied?
3. What methods will you use to introduce others to this same Jesus? Practice with one another.

### Prayer Time

"Every day with You, Lord, is sweeter than the day before." Thank You for coming into my life.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

✍️ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Start-up: Have you ever wished for time to move quickly/slow down? What was happening that prompted such a response?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline