



Volume 8, No. 9, September, 2020



Home of the Soul

*If for the prize we have striven,
After our labors are o'er,
Rest to our souls will be given,
On the eternal shore.*

*Yes, a sweet rest is remaining
For the true children of God,
Where there will be no complaining,
Never a chast'ning rod.*

*Soon, the bright homeland adorning,
We shall behold the glad dawn;
Lean on the Lord till the morning,
Trust till the night is gone.*

Refrain:

*Home of the soul
Blessed kingdom of light,
Free from all care,
And where falleth no night!
Oft, in the storm,
We are sighing for Thee,
Beautiful home of the ransomed,
Beside the crystal sea, the crystal sea.*

WORDS: James Rowe (1912)

MUSIC: Samuel W. Beazley (1912)



Switching Homes

By Louise Buffington

Lord, I am so grateful that You have made a way
For us to talk to You, every minute, every day.

I know that You must listen, to my oft repeated prayer,
And when I ask You for Your help, I shall always find
You there.

I hear Your words of wisdom, they spill across each page
Of the Bible, dearest treasure, which can never fade
with age.

From the sacred word You've given, I learn Your will for
man,
And how Your church was started through that great
eternal plan.

Lord, I want to honor You, singing praises 'round Your
throne
In the presence of my loved ones, where we shall know
as we are known.

How I wish to celebrate the cherished Bible story,
And how it changed my home down here for a
mansion up in glory!

I long to go to heaven when my life on earth is through,
Not just to dodge the flaming pit, but for eternity
with You.

Via Voice of Truth International



Eternity

After spending a few months staying at home
(especially if there are small children involved), you
may have a better idea of what eternity is like. The
days seem endless!

However, that is not the way I picture eternity in
heaven with Jesus. Can you even in your wildest
imagination think what it would be like to spend every
day in His presence?

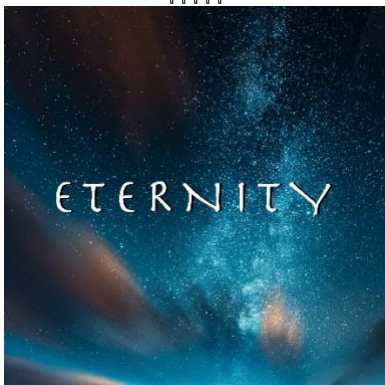
Thinking about how wonderful it would be to be forever in the presence of God makes me realize how important my days here on earth are. How we live our earthly lives greatly determines how we will spend our eternity. I would much rather look forward to an eternity in paradise than an eternity of constant pain and anguish.

God created each of us and wants so much for us to live with Him forever, but it is totally our choice. God sent His Son as a payment for our sins to provide that opportunity for us, but He won't force us to accept His love. We can be totally self-seeking and may even have riches and enjoyment in this lifetime, but with that choice we would lose out on a beautiful eternity.

If we want to have an eternity to enjoy, then we must deny ourselves here on this earth and live our lives for Jesus. We have to recognize we can't live the right kind of lives on our own, and we have to submit ourselves to our Lord. He wants us to reach out to others, encourage each other, care for one another, and help each other in any way that we can. We must share the Good News of salvation with others and help them to see that the important things are spiritual things. We need to spend time in His Word and let His Spirit work in us to become like Him. Our lives should reveal the fruit of the Spirit and be a reflection of His love toward us.

When we repent of our sins and are baptized into Christ and then live our lives for Him, He tells us we can be assured of our salvation. In fact, He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, which like an engagement ring, gives us confidence that He will come again and claim us as His bride. And, oh, what a home He has gone away to prepare for us!

Lorna Smith, Lubbock, Texas



(Day) Dreaming of Heaven

Heaven. It is where I want to be for eternity. I have no idea when, how, or where my death will occur. The thought of it used to totally creep me out...but it is coming...sometime. I have no promise of another breath, another hour, month, or year. I have fewer days yet to live on this earth than my days already lived in the past. I have no idea when I passed the halfway mark. There was no fanfare of trumpets marking that day. It came and went unnoticed. But my goal is heaven.

How will it work at the moment of death? Will I be escorted "across Jordan" by angels? By Jesus? By God Himself? The old song says, "I won't have to cross Jordan alone." That's a comforting thought, but I don't know if it is scripturally accurate. That is, unless the song refers to Israel crossing the Jordan to enter the Promised Land.

As I see it, if I live a faithful life the rest of my days, it won't really matter to me after the moment of death. At some point, I want to see Jesus to thank Him for His incredible love—love that nailed Him to the cross when it should have been me suffering for my own sin on the cross! My feeble mind can't wrap itself around heaven and being in the very presence of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit! It will all be far more wonderful and awe inspiring than I can ever imagine. I just dream of being there some day. As another song says,

I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side...
Will I dance for you, Jesus?
Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in your presence?
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine!

Will I recognize Paul and Peter and John? Will I recognize Rahab and Ruth and Esther? And how about Mary, the mother of Jesus? And Lydia and Dorcas? *"What rejoicing there will be when the saints shall rise, headed for that jubilee yonder in the skies. What a day of singing! What a day of shouting! On that happy morning when we all shall gladly rise; what a day of glory, Glory hallelujah! When we meet our blessed Savior yonder in the skies!"*

Yes, I'm dreaming of being there some day...on that **eternal** day!

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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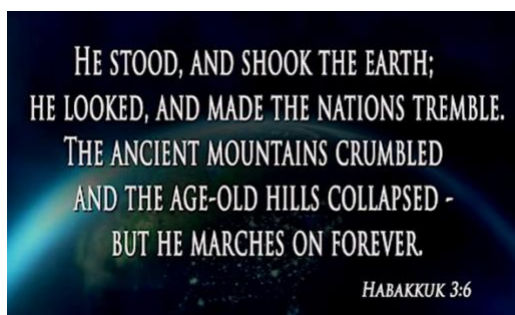
Eternity

Webster's Dictionary defines eternal/eternity as, "without beginning or end, timeless, forever the same, unchangeable." The Lord set time in place at creation. Everything in our world is judged by time. We humans find it impossible to wrap our finite minds around the concept of eternity. Someone or something having no beginning and no end is hard for us to fathom.

We live in a constantly changing, ever-evolving environment. Nature changes with the seasons. Our bodies change as we grow old. Our minds are constantly changing (no pun intended). Society changes all the time, sometimes for the good, sometime for the worse. Because of time, we live with change.

We have a difficult time understanding someone who never changes. Hebrews 13:8 says, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" The wise man says in Ecclesiastes 3:11, "*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*"

Human beings are the only part of His creation that were given souls made to dwell in the eternal. He has set ETERNITY in our hearts. Habakkuk 3:6 says, "*He marches on forever.*"



When all things are over for us here, Ecclesiastes 12:5 says, "*Then man goes to his eternal home.*" Psalm 119:89, "*Your word, O, Lord, is eternal. It stands firm in the heavens.*" Then Daniel 4:3 says, "*How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; His dominion endures from generation to generation.*"

As Christians, we look forward to our eternal home in Heaven, but none of us can begin to understand what that means. The glorious magnificence of that eternal home is beyond our comprehension. In the book of Revelation, God uses words like, "*measuring rod of gold..., walls made of jasper..., the city of pure gold..., the 12 foundation of this city are jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, carnelian, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrisopraxe, jacinth, and amethyst, the 12 gates that are pearl, and the street made with gold, like transparent glass.*"

Human beings can understand a little about these precious gems because we can see them and know their value, so He uses words and descriptions that we can somewhat understand. But these words and descriptions are not literal. They are symbolic and used just to give us an inkling of the unspeakable and indescribable glory there. We will never know or understand the true glory of heaven until we get there!

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:2-7, "*I know a man who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven (God's dwelling place). Whether it was in the body or out of the body, I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body, I do not know—God knows—was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell...*" Verse 7 says, "*In order to keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.*"

Paul did not know why he was privileged to get a glimpse of Heaven, but it was so wondrous, he would never be permitted to tell. Paul could have become conceited because of these revelations, so the Lord gave him a "thorn in the flesh," a messenger of Satan, to remind him that he was still only human and that he could never tell anyone about what he saw.

Hebrews 12:1-3 says, "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider*

Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

With God there is no time. In 2 Peter 3:8-9, Peter says, "but do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance."



Psalms 90:1-2 (a prayer of Moses) says, "Lord you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God." Then in verse 4, he says, "A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night."

So let us never grow weary or become discouraged. Let us get rid of every sin that hinders us in our walk with Him. Heaven and its glory await!

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, MO



God's Child

She searches the crowd for him. Is he listening? Is he behaving himself? It was such a short time ago when she would complain, "I did not hear a word the preacher spoke," but now her thoughts are distracted for another reason. Now her children are not beside her—they are "too big." Her arms ache for a child squirming there all through church. She stands to sing and her body sways as if rocking a child. Where did the years go? Was it worth all those frustrating Sunday mornings? Sunday nights? Wednesday nights? Oh, there he is; look at him ... he's singing. His eyes are attentive. She feels so much joy. Look! There's my child. No, he's God's child!

Via House to House/Heart to Heart



Faith-isms by Charles B. Hodge

Begin the day with God,

End the day with God,

And walk through the day with God.

I cannot be perfect for one minute

But I can be faithful one day at a time.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Faith does not give us all the answers.

Faith allows us to live without the answers.

Having faith means trusting in advance

What will only make sense in reverse.

Peter exchanged his faith for doubt. He sank.

You may doubt your faith,

But never believe your doubts.

Faith is daily.

Begin the day with God,

End the day with God,

And walk through the day with God.



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