Living In The Light Of Eternity

I. The way you see your life shapes your life.

A. How you define life determines your destiny.

1. Your perspective will influence how you invest:

   - **Your time** - Spend your money - **Use your talents**

2. Your unspoken life metaphor influences your life more that you realize. It determines:

   - Your expectations - **Your values** - Your relationships.

   - **Your goals** - Your priorities.

3. For instance:

   a. If you think life is a party, your primary value in life will be having fun.

   b. If you see life as a race, you will value speed and will probably be in a a hurry much of the time.

   c. If you view life as a marathon, your will value endurance.

   d. If you view life as a battle or a game, winning will be very important to you.

B. In order to see your life clearly, the way God sees it, you need some light.

1. You need to see your life and live your life in the light of Eternity.

2. Life is not all there is. **Psalm 119:19** - “I am here on earth for just a little while.”

   a. This life is just the dress rehearsal before the real production.

   b. This life is the staging area, the preschool, the tryout for eternity.

   c. It is the practice workout before the actual game.

   d. The warm-up lap before the race begins.

3. The purpose of this life is serve as preparation for the next.
C. You have an inborn instinct for immortality.

1. Even though you know everyone eventually dies, death always seems unnatural and unfair.

2. The reason we feel we should live forever is that God wired our brains with that desire.

   a. Eccl 3:11 - “He has planted eternity in the human heart.”

   b. The Hebrew word for “eternity” is “`olam” which means “continuous existence” or “perpetual life.”

3. Even Jesus viewed death as unnatural. Luke 7:12

   a. To Jesus death was never suppose to be. John 5:24 & John 8:51-52

   b. One day there will be an end of your Body but there will not be an end of you.

D. Death is not the end of you.

1. Death is not your termination, but your transition into eternity.

   a. Your earthly body is just a temporary residence for your spirit.

   b. We are not human beings presently having a spiritual experience, we are Spiritual beings presently having a human experience.

   c. The Bible calls your earthly body a tent, but refers to your future body as a house. 2 Corinthians 5:1-2

3. When you fully realize that life is just a preparation for eternity. You will start living in the light of eternity.

   a. Suddenly man activities, goals, and even problems that seemed so important will appear trivial, petty, and unworthy of your attention.

   b. The closer you live to God, the smaller everything else appears.

4. There are eternal consequences to everything you do on earth.

   a. Every act of your life strikes some chord that will vibrate in eternity.

   b. In the Movie Gladiator - “what we do in life echoes in eternity.

   c. The deeds of this life are the destiny of the next life.
II. What is eternity going to be like?

A. Frankly our finite brains cannot begin to comprehend the infinite greatness of heaven.  
   1 Corinthians 2:9

1. C. S. Lewis captured the concept of eternity on the last page of the Chronicles of Narnia, his seven-book children’s fiction series:

   “For us this is the end of all the stories . . . But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world . . . had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story, which no one on earth has read, which goes on forever and in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

2. It’s more than “the opportunity of a lifetime” God offers you an opportunity beyond your lifetime. Psalm 33:11.

B. To make the best use of your life, you must never forget two truths:

1. First, compared with eternity, life is extremely brief.

2. Second, earth is only a temporary residence.

C. Repeatedly the Bible compares life on earth to temporarily living in a foreign country.

1. This is not your permanent home or final destination.

   a. You’re passing through, just visiting earth.

   b. The Bible uses terms like alien, pilgrim, foreigner, stranger, visitor; and traveler to describe our brief stay on earth

   c. Psalm 119:19 & 1 Peter 1:17

2. Christians should carry spiritual green cards to remind us that our citizenship is in heaven. Phil 3:19-20.

D. Your identity is in eternity, and your homeland is heaven.

1. When you grasp this truth, you will stop worrying about “having it all” on earth.

2. God is very blunt about the danger of living for the for the here and now and adopting the values, priorities, and lifestyles of the world around us. Romans 12:1-2 - John 17:14-16 - John 4:4 - 1 John 2:15
3. **2 Cor 5:20** - As an Ambassador for Christ in this world

   a. **You have to learn a new language**

   b. You will have to adapt to some customs and cultural differences in order to be polite and accomplish your mission.

4. **You will not be able to isolate yourself from the world.**

   a. To fulfill your mission, you would have to have contact and relate to them.

   b. **But suppose you became so comfortable with is foreign country that you fell in love with it, preferring it to your homeland.**

      1) Your loyalty and commitment would change.

      2) **Your role as an ambassador would be compromised.**

      3) Instead of representing your home country, you would start acting like the enemy.

      4) **You would be traitor. I Peter 2:11 & 1 Corinthians 7:31**

5. In order to keep us from becoming too attached to earth, God allows us to feel a significant amount of discontent and dissatisfaction in life.

   a. **God has given us longings that will never be fulfilled on this side of eternity.**

   b. We are not completely happy here because we are not suppose to be.

      1) **A fish will never be happy living on land, because it was made for water.**

      2) An eagle could never feel satisfied if it wasn’t allowed to fly, it was made for the air.

   c. **As a fish was made for water, and the eagle was made for the air, you were made for eternity.**

   d. The end of life is not the end.

   e. **At death you don’t leave home, you go home.**