

Time & Eternity

“What’s the hurry? I have plenty of **time**,” someone may say. Alas though, as he lingers, **time** continues to march on, at a snail’s pace, but nonetheless, continuing onward. **Time** - though not seen, still it exists; though not heard, yet its presence is felt, for all experience it. **Time** may be measured by clocks and calendars, but it cannot be harnessed nor restrained. Though the clocks may be stopped, the seconds continue to pass by, unimpeded. As **time** advances onward, its course never changing, **eternity** awaits its arrival. **Eternity** - it has no beginning or end, for it is infinite. In the eternal state, time has no meaning, for it ceases to exist - it is consumed by **eternity**. Sooner or later for all of mortal mankind, **time** runs out as **eternity** beckons. No matter what the status of an individual’s life, **time** and **eternity** wait for no man!

Friend, during this period of your earthly pilgrimage, have you given any thought as to where you will spend **eternity**? God’s Word very clearly tells us that every human soul will spend **eternity** in one of two places: the place the Bible calls heaven or the place called hell. When one’s physical life ends, that soul immediately enters the eternal state. No one knows the exact **time** this will happen, but it will. Only during this lifetime do we have opportunity to prepare for **eternity**. Friend, are YOU prepared? Where will you spend **eternity**?

According to God’s Word, the Bible, those who spend **eternity** in hell are those who have not repented of sin and trusted (believed on) Jesus Christ for salvation. Everyone is born a sinner (Rom. 5:12; 3:23) and is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1). As a result, man is in a state of total depravity (Rom. 3:10-18) and bound for a Christless **eternity** in hell (Rom. 6:23); Rev. 19:11-15; 20:8).

Friend, do you know that even though you are a hell-deserving sinner, God still loves you? God does not love your sin(s), but He does love you, and it’s because of that love that He has made **provision for your salvation**. You see, **Jesus Christ** who is God’s Son (He is also God, Jn. 1:1; 20:28) left heaven’s glory and took on the body of humanity (Matt. 1:18-2:1) in order that He might die on the **cross of Calvary** to pay your sin debt (Matt. 27:1-50; Rom. 5:6). When **Christ died on the cross He shed His blood which was the full and final payment for our sin debt** (Rom. 5:9; 3:25; Eph. 1:7; 2:12; Heb. 9:11-14; I Peter 1:18-19). Three days after His burial, Jesus Christ was **bodily raised** by the power of God (Matt. 28:6; John 20; Acts 2:24) and even as you read these lines **He is now in heaven** (Heb. 10:12). Friend, **God did all of this just for you in order that you might have the forgiveness for sin and salvation in Christ**. *Friend, will you right now repent (to repent means to have a change of mind that leads to a change of action) of your sin and confess it to God, seeking His forgiveness and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ receive Him as your personal Saviour? Will you do that right now?* The Bible says that “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Rom. 10:13). Those who do repent of sin and trust Christ have eternal life in Him (John 3:16; I John 5:11-13) and will be with Him for **eternity** in heaven (II Cor. 5:8).

As **eternity** beckons to one and all, we are reminded that “...behold, now is the accepted **time**; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (II Cor. 6:2) Time yields to the beckoning call of **eternity** - **time** and **eternity** wait for a man. While there is yet **time**, repent of sin and be saved! Then seek out a good independent, fundamental, Bible believing and Bible preaching, God loving and devil hating church. Attend it regularly that you might be spiritually fed from God’s Word to help you grow spiritually strong.

-Richard A. Ciarrocca