

**Looking for Eden,  
Longing for Heaven**

**“There is woven inside each of us a desire for something more—a craving to be part of something bigger, greater, and more profound than our relatively meaningless day-by-day existence...We were placed on earth to be part of something bigger than the narrow borders of our own survival and our own little definition of happiness. The desire resides in each of us...”**

**Paul David Tripp, *A Quest for More***

**He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:11**

**“Eternity was important in Israel’s heritage. An eternal life had been lost, an eternal covenant inaugurated by an eternal God. An eternal priesthood and an eternal kingdom were bestowed by a God eternally merciful, giving his people eternal joy. The eternity of God’s dealings with mankind corresponds to something inside us: we have a capacity for eternal things, are concerned about the future, want to understand from the beginning to the end, and have a sense of something which transcends our immediate situation. Scripture speaks of our creation in the image or glory of God, a glory which is largely forfeited yet not obliterated. Our consciousness of God is part of our nature, and the suppression of it is part of our sin.”**

**Michael Eaton, *Ecclesiastes (TOTC)***

**“We are like the desperately nearsighted, inching their way along some great tapestry or fresco in the attempt to take it in. We see enough to recognize something of its quality, but the grand design escapes us, for we can never stand back far enough to view it as its Creator does, whole and entire, from the beginning to the end....This incomprehensibility is dismaying for the thoughtful secularist, but not for the believer.”**

**Derek Kidner, *The Message of Ecclesiastes (TBST)***

# **Evidence of Eternity on Man's Hearts**

## **1. Human Experience**

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## **1. Human Experience**

- Pleasure and joy**

**“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”**

**C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity***



**You make known to me the path of life; in  
your presence there is fullness of joy; at  
your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**Psalm 16:11**

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## **1. Human Experience**

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# **Evidence of Eternity on Man's Hearts**

## **1. Human Experience**

- Pleasure and joy**
- An inclination to act**
- A desire for wisdom**

**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask  
God, who gives generously to all without  
reproach, and it will be given him.**

**James 1:5**

# **Evidence of Eternity on Man's Hearts**

## **1. Human Experience**

- Pleasure and joy**
- An inclination to act**
- A desire for wisdom**
- The distinction between time and eternity**

**“The really important thing to notice is that Time stands in the same relation to Eternity, in one sense, as a large number does to infinity. There is one sense in which infinity includes a very large number, yet it is quite fundamentally different and independent of it. And by analogy, Eternity includes Time and yet is fundamentally something other. The reduction of Time until it gets smaller and smaller is still not Eternity. Nor do we reach Eternity by an extension of Time to great length. There is no direct pathway between Time and Eternity. They are different categories of experience.”**

**Dr. Arthur Custance, *Doorway Papers***

# **Evidence of Eternity on Man's Hearts**

- 1. Human Experience**
- 2. Sociology/Psychology**

# **Evidence of Eternity on Man's Hearts**

- 1. Human Experience**
- 2. Sociology/Psychology**
- 3. The Bible**



**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**

**Romans 1:18-20**

**So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

**For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**

**2 Corinthians 5:1-5**

# **Eternity on our Hearts: Everyday Impact**

## **1. Everyday Observations**

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## **1. Everyday Observations**

- Creation**

**“Primarily it (creation) shows his great power and wisdom far above anything that could be imagined by any creature.”**

**Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology***

# **Eternity on our Hearts: Everyday Impact**

## **1. Everyday Observations**

- Creation**
- Gifts**

**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of lights, with whom  
there is no variation or shadow due to change.**

**James 1:17**



**“I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.”**

**G.K. Chesterton, *A Short History of England***

# **Eternity on our Hearts: Everyday Impact**

## **1. Everyday Observations**

- Creation**
- Gifts**
- Mundane**

**“Grace is easy. Life is hard...Seeking God’s face in a fallen world is not the easy life; it’s the good life, and a good life is always a life of worthwhile stories and worthwhile struggles.”**

**Mike Cospers, *Recapturing the Wonder***

**“We can wholeheartedly enjoy creative activities with an attitude of thanksgiving that our Creator God enables us to imitate him in our creativity.”**

**Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology***

# **Eternity on our Hearts: Everyday Impact**

## **1. Everyday Observations**

- **Creation**
- **Gifts**
- **Mundane**
- **Relationships**

**“No matter how you’re wired — introvert, extrovert, socially adept or socially awkward — something in your soul longs for meaningful relationships with other humans. We long to know others and be known by them. We treasure friendships that allow us to truly ‘be ourselves.’ Though some of us have never found this sort of community and though others have been deeply wounded by relationships, all of us still long for a deep, authentic, real community. How did we get this way? How did this craving, this longing, get hardwired into us? The Bible answers that question by explaining that we are created in the image of God.”**

**Robert Thune and Will Walker, *The Gospel-Centered Community***

# **Eternity on our Hearts: Everyday Impact**

- 1. Everyday Observations**
- 2. Disciplines**

**“Discipline without direction is  
drudgery.”**

**Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life***



**“If the Bible is the voice of the Beloved,  
then there must be a way of reading it  
that connects with us as whole people.”**

**Mike Cospers, *Recapturing the Wonder***

# **Eternity on our Hearts: Everyday Impact**

- 1. Everyday Observations**
- 2. Disciplines**
- 3. Hardship**

**Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.**

**2 Corinthians 11:24-27**

**“As it is true of a street sign, so it is true of every jaw-dropping, knee-weakening, silence-producing, wonder-inspiring thing in the universe. The sign is not the thing you are looking for. No, the sign points you to what you are looking for. So you can’t stop at the sign, for it will never deliver what the thing it is pointing to will deliver.”**

**Paul David Tripp, *AWE***

**“To speak of the new creation in terms of a restoration of Eden is actually a reduction of what God has planned for his people and for his world. Eden was never intended to be the end. It was always headed somewhere — somewhere even more glorious: new heavens and a new earth.”**

**Nancy Guthrie, *Heaven Will Be Better Than Eden***

**“Though there is a likeness between Heaven and Eden, there is a difference, too, for the earthly Paradise with all its perfections was still of the earth, earthy. And the second Paradise is, like the Lord from Heaven, heavenly and Divine! The fatal Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, hedged about by a solemn threat, grows not in the garden of the immortals. They have known evil, but they now, "know the Lord," and know evil no more. Everything in the Divine Paradise is fuller and more abundant. The gold, which in Eden lay in the soil, is used in the heavenly Paradise to pave the streets. The river has no earthly source, but is "a pure river of the Water of Life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the Throne of God and of the Lamb.”**

**Charles H. Spurgeon, *Healing Leaves***

**“We’re not merely looking forward to a restoration of what Eden once was. Instead, we’re looking forward to the consummation of all that Eden was intended to be. Jesus, the true Adam, our glorious Bridegroom, the Seed who crushed the serpent’s head ([Genesis 3:15](#)), will not fail to lead us into all that God is preparing for us — a home even better than Eden.”**

**Nancy Guthrie, *Heaven Will Be Better Than Eden***

**He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:11-13**



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