

50

The World is Never Enough

III. Eternity beckons but eludes us. (3:10-15)

- Time and Eternity
- God and Eternity
- Man and Eternity

51

Time and Eternity

- God created time with the physical universe. Strictly speaking, there was no “before” creation because there was no time apart from creation.



52

Time and Eternity

- Time itself is not part of the “curse” of the Fall (Gen. 3:14-24), but a good creation of God. We experience time as grievous because we are cut off from God, the source of life. The passage of time marks our decline, deterioration, and death.
- Eternity is not endless time but timelessness.

53

God and Eternity

- God is eternal, without beginning, and without end. In himself, *without* creation, God “inhabits” eternity; he is timeless (Ps. 90:1-2; Ps. 93:2).
- God does not have his life in temporal succession, as we do. For God, “*eternity is the complete possession all at once of limitless life*” (Boethius – AD 480-524).

54

God and Eternity

- *With* creation, God now “participates” in time, analogous to how Christ “participates” in humanity in his incarnation.



55

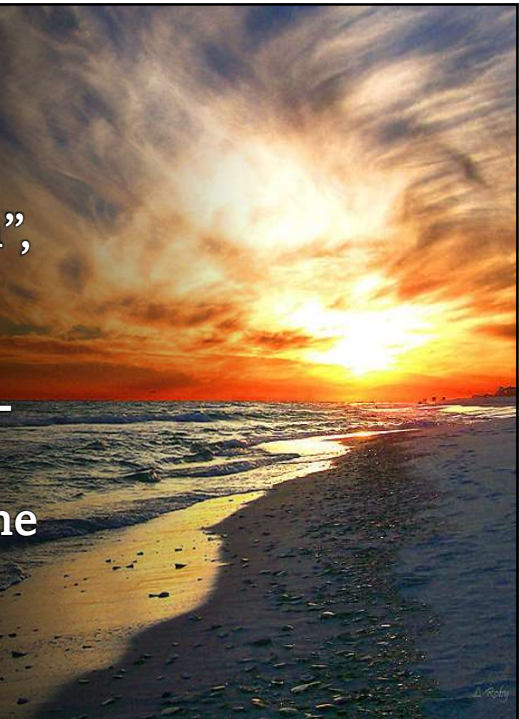
Man and Eternity

- Strictly speaking (again), human beings are not, and never will be, “eternal” because we have a beginning. Rather, we are “everlasting.”
- What then does it mean that God has placed “eternity” in our hearts?

56

- **What then does it mean that God has placed “eternity” in our hearts?**

Though we live “under the sun”, entrapped in time between the boundaries of birth and death, human beings also have a God-given* intuition that there is something beyond the brief time of this life—something that encompasses and transcends time.



57

- **What then does it mean that God has placed “eternity” in our hearts?**

Much of what we do in this life—in work, achievement, religion, and relationship—stems from our longing to grasp eternity.

58

- **What then does it mean that God has placed “eternity” in our hearts?**

We long to understand who we are and why we are here “against the backdrop of eternity” (Garrett). We have an inner sense that our individual lives, and human history entire, are meant to be integrated and fulfilling wholes.

59

- **What then does it mean that God has placed “eternity” in our hearts?**

Yet, bound by time and finitude, we are unable to comprehend the meaning and purpose of the world or our place in it: “What God has done from beginning to end.” .



60

- **What then does it mean that God has placed “eternity” in our hearts?**

As Solomon has said before, if we do not ask from life what it cannot give, we can accept happiness & enjoyment as the gift of God.



61

- **What then does it mean that God has placed “eternity” in our hearts?**

Seeing our own feeble & fragmented efforts compared to the completeness and eternal perfection of all that God has done is meant to humble humans and lead us to worship him.