

Renewed Vision

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[0 : 00] Go to Proverbs, if you've got your Bible there. Proverbs 29, verse 18. We're looking at an eternal perspective, aiming for an eternal purpose, an eternal perspective.

! It's like changing your spectacles, if you like. Where there is no vision, the people perish. We're living in a world that's perishing, aren't we? People don't know Christ, they've got that lack of vision, they've never seen Jesus and his saving.

There's a whole lost, dying world out there, separated from God by sin. And we are made to live for the eternal. That's really our purpose.

But really, even as God's children, we don't always let the eternal stay in focus. We get locked into the temporal things too much. There was a man in Sydney called Arthur Stace, and for 37 years, over half a million times, he wrote the words, Eternity, on the pavement of Sydney.

And really, it was one sermon in a word. Eternity. Eternity. Stace got saved when he heard a preacher, John Ridley, shout out, I wish I could shout eternity throughout all the streets of Sydney.

[1 : 10] And so Stace was moved when he heard this to do just that. Took a piece of chalk and he bent down and he wrote Eternity on the footpath. And friends, eternity is what really we're living for, isn't it?

We live forever. With our end. There's another world. There's another country, God's country. And it's really something for us as believers to have that eternal perspective in everything we do.

So what is eternity like? Our life is comprised of three major events. Our birth, determining our future, and our death. At our birth, our life first intersects the timeline of history and we become part of it.

Our future, the best decision we can make is to trust Christ, to spend eternity with him. And then our death. One day our earthly body will die.

But our days on earth will determine where we spend eternity. Have we received the gift? The average person has perhaps about 70 years of life.

[2 : 14] Now some of you are living a bit beyond. You're on borrowed time. Now 70 years is a very short time, isn't it? When you think about it, what portion of my life do I still have to live? So I hope that eternity will be indelibly printed on our minds.

There's three things you could say that will last forever. Number one, God. God will last forever. For it says of him, of old thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, the heavens are the work of thy hands.

They shall perish, but thou shalt endure. Yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment. As a vesture shall thou change them, they shall be changed.

But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. It says even the world is going to be like a garment getting old. But God is forever. God is eternal.

Another thing that is forever is the word of God. It says heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away. We've got a book we've got absolute confidence in. That every word of it is true.

[3 : 14] It is forever. It's forever. It shall not pass away. And a third thing that shall last forever. We've got God shall last forever. His word shall last forever. Another thing that shall last forever is people.

People. It says that the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord. People are important.

They shall live forever. Even the people we don't always get along with, they're going to live forever. So we should take note of that. Be mindful of that. That people are going to live forever.

It's from you. Lord, we pray for any present or watching that have yet to trust you, have yet to receive that awesome, precious, everlasting gift of eternal life, that they'll say, Yes, Lord, I believe. You died on the cross for my sin. You rose again. You're my saviour. By faith, I trust you now. And I receive that gift of everlasting life. And I know that I have eternal life because I have believed. Lord, we thank you for each one. Go with us now, our families, Lord, until we meet again. All to your praise, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen. Be encouraged in your faith in these days ahead.
[19 : 59] Amen. Amen.