

Only Two Things Are Eternal

We live in a world preoccupied with the temporary: educational achievements, occupation and career, possessions, status, and pleasure. But the Bible reminds us that everything visible is passing away. God has declared that **only** two things are eternal: the Word of God and the souls of men and women. **Isaiah 40:8**: *“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever.”* and Jesus said, **Matthew 24:35**: *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.”* Understanding this fact should reshape how we live, what we value, and how we respond to God. Jesus warns us, **Matthew 10:28**: *“And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Before salvation, we were slaves to sin and destined for eternal death, meaning eternal separation from God. But through our faith in Jesus Christ, we received the gift of God, salvation of the soul unto eternal life: **John 3:16,18**: *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”* The gift of eternal life comes to those who believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, **John 11:25**: *“I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies.”* The fact that this life is “eternal” indicates that it is perpetual, going on and on with no end. However, it is a mistake to view eternal life as merely an unending progression of years. In fact, eternal life is not really associated with “years” at all, as it is independent of time. It can operate outside and beyond time, as well as within time. Believers don’t have to wait for eternal life because it doesn’t begin at death. Rather, eternal life begins the moment a person exercises faith in Christ. It is our current possession. **John 3:36**: *“The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”* The focus of eternal life is not on our future but on our current standing in Christ. **John 17:3** inextricably links eternal life to the Person of Jesus Christ, an important passage in this regard. As **Jesus prays**, *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”* Jesus equates “eternal life” with knowledge of the Father and the Son. There is no knowledge of the Father without the Son, because it is through the Son that the Father reveals Himself to us. Our gift from God is abundant spiritual life, a life of meaning, purpose, and joy, from the moment of salvation onward and for all eternity. Our old life of sin brings no benefit and leads only to death. Everything in our lives will fade away. Only God’s Word and the souls of men and women will remain. So the most important personal question is not what you gain in this life, but what you are doing with God’s Word and where your soul will spend eternity.