

## Before the Foundation of the World

Eternity is one of our great mysteries when we think of God. It symbolizes the concept of infinity in relation to time. We find it difficult to understand eternity because we lack precedent. The triune God consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, all of whom have always existed. In God's perspective, everything exists in the present: the past, present, and future coexist simultaneously. The Bible tells us **Genesis 1:1**, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* God's Word confirms that Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, was the architect of creation. **John 1:3**: *"All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being."* and **Colossians 1:16**: *"for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him."* And why is this relevant to us? You see, the Bible tells us we were chosen in Christ before the creation of the world. **Ephesians 1:4-5**: *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will."* Christ has loved us for a duration that surpasses our finite understanding. His love has existed for all eternity. Another comforting fact is we don't enter into eternal life when we die; rather, we enter into eternal life when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior. God's love for us is not based on our identity or actions; it's rooted in who He is. Whether we succeed or fail, His love for us remains constant. Why is that? Because He is love. God's love for us is limitless and eternal. No matter what actions we take or how we behave, there is nothing that can cause Him to stop loving us. Additionally, His love cannot be increased by our efforts or good deeds; it's already at its fullest. This unwavering and unconditional love is a powerful reminder of our worth and the grace that surrounds us daily. But if God chooses who is saved, doesn't that undermine our free will to choose and believe in Christ? The Bible affirms that we have a choice: all who believe in Jesus Christ will be saved. Jesus said, **John 3:15**: *"that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him."* and **Romans 10:9**: *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* The Bible does not describe God as rejecting anyone who believes in Him or turning away anyone seeking Him. **Deuteronomy 4:29**: *"But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul."* The truths of God's sovereign predestination and man's responsibility are not mutually exclusive. Somehow, in the mystery of God, predestination works hand-in-hand with a person being drawn by God and believing in salvation. Jesus said in **John 6:44**, *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."* God predestines who will be saved, and we must choose Christ in order to be saved. Both facts are equally true.