LESSON 3: Walking in the Light of Eternity

Lesson Text: Ecclesiastes 3:11

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also he has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”(NKJV)

**What is eternity**?

* Eternity defined is “a state to which time has no application”
* It is the word “Aion” in Greek, It is the word “olam” in Hebrew.
* It is translated as “age”.
* It’s original meaning carried the ideal of “LIFE”

**Based upon these facts we can deduce that Eternity considerations are best viewed:**

* In counter position to time considerations.
* In spite of worldly positioning.
* In contradiction to carnality
* In connection with Spirituality
* In accordance with Spiritual Perspectives.

**When does Eternity Begin? This question is often grappled with in religion.**

* Some argue that it begins at death.
* Others argue that it begins when we get to Heaven.

The best response is that Eternity does not begin or end!

**It is entered and experienced, not earned.**

* **It is entered and experienced, as Life:**
  + In counter position to time,
  + In despite of worldly positioning,
  + In contradiction to carnality,
  + In connection with Spirituality,
  + In accordance with Spiritual Perspectives.

Let’s view this through a critical-literature examination of Ecclesiastes 3. **Turn to Ecclesiastes 3.**

* V.1-season refers to “an appointed time” and a “appropriate time”, under heaven or better stated (on earth).
* V.2-8 list earthly occurrences governed by time.
* V.9 Ask the rhetorical question of gain to be had from human toil.
  + In view of God’s orchestration of human affairs, what is there that mans efforts can change.
  + Any benefit that might be gained by mans toil is nullified by ignorance of God’s Providence.
* V.10- here is identified the TASK of Humanity.
  + It is a task that is God-given, some translations call it a “burden”, however it is meant to be understood as an essential task to be engaged or entangled with.
* V.11
  + Beautiful here speaks more to accuracy of “fit”.
  + The word “Also”, is translated to reflect the meaning of the word “but” to give greater clarity to the statement.
  + This poses contradiction between the beautiful fit, and the Eternity placed in the hearts.
  + **The reason given for the eternity being Divinely placed in the heart (intellect, emotions, and will), is so that there is an inspired seeking of God’s ordained future plans.**
    - Beyond time parameters, obstacles, etc.
  + **Eternity here is better described as a “sense of eternity”**

**This suggest that God has endowed us with a awareness of the extra-temporal (out side of time) significance of ourselves and our accomplishments.**

The Placement of Eternity, and Eternity Awareness.

* From the time a person believes, God puts His Holy Spirit in every believer, and The Spirit is available to us every second.
  + **Read: Romans 8:11, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 1:13-14.**

**Unawareness of this Divine Presence leave most believers living to our own detriment and impoverishment.**

**The Sense of Eternity as Eternal Perspective**.

C.S.Lewis quote:

*“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”*

* An Eternal Perspective is a perspective anchored in the faith that what the Word of God says about eternity is true.
  + God knew us before we were born. (Jeremiah 1:5)
  + God is with us here on earth. (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 28:20,
  + We have a prepared place. (John 14:3)
  + There are better things for us that we cannot see. (1 Corinthians 2:9)
* What does it look like to Walk in the Light of Eternity.
  + Let’s Read Ephesians 5:8-17