

The Edge of Eternity
Time to Wake Up
9/30/18

Beginning a new series - The Edge of Eternity

- We live each day - each moment on the edge of eternity
- “Edge” = Merriam Dict: the point near the beginning or end of something - the verge or brink. It is a dividing line so when you cross it, you leave one place and enter another
- We live our entire life on this side of an edge or brink - heaven or hell for eternity
- The most important thing that will ever happen to us and those around us, we spend almost no time thinking about or preparing for

Eph 5:14-16 we are to wake up to reality and live each day circumspectly (aware all around)

Alert to all that is on every side of you - 360* movie

E.g. my awakening to the semi's around me driving home

Isaiah 40:6-8 - God tells prophet that the message of the one coming before the Messiah starts by reminding that this life is like the flowers and grass which bloom for a season then fade away

Why is this so vital

- God intends this wake up for true followers of Christ is to give us comfort
1 Cor 15:19 - if our hope is in Christ only in this life, we are most to be pitied
- It is an alert, that a day is coming when we will give an account for our faithfulness to what He has given us to do
 - Why we continually give you opportunities to serve
 - We are saved by faith in Christ, but judged before Christ for our work for Him
- It is an alert that every person around us is living blindly on the brink of eternity
- We need to awake to a sense of urgency

Why is this so hard to grasp?

- Eternity means without beginning or end
- Everything we have known and will know in this life has a beginning and end
- Our minds can't grasp based on experience something endless
 - Until Columbus, man believed the world was flat because he could only see the horizon
 - Quote from John Wesley, *On Eternity*:

Yet this unspeakable folly, this unutterable madness, of preferring present things to eternal, is the disease of every man born into the world, while in his natural state. For such is the constitution of our nature, that as the eye sees only such a portion of space at once, so the mind sees only such a portion of time at once. And as all the space that lies beyond that compass is invisible to

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the mind. So that we do not perceive either the space or the time which is at a distance from us. The eye sees distinctly the space that is near it, with the objects which it contains: In like manner, the mind sees distinctly those objects which are within such a distance of time. The eye does not see the beauties of China: They are at too great a distance: There is too great a space between us and them: Therefore we are not affected by them. They are as nothing to us: It is just the same to us as if they had no being. For the same reason, the mind does not see either the beauties or the terrors of eternity. We are not at all affected by them, because they are so distant from us. On this account it is, that they appear to us as nothing: just as if they had no existence. Meantime, we are wholly taken up with things present, whether in time or space; and things appear less and less, as they are more and more distant from us, either in one respect or the other. And so it must be; such is the constitution of our nature; till nature is changed by almighty grace. but this is no manner of excuse for those who continue in their natural blindness to futurity; because a remedy for it is provided, which is found by all that seek it: Yea, it is freely given to all that sincerely ask it.¹

What are we to do?

The grace that awakens us is the Word of God brought into our hearts by the Holy Spirit

John 16:7-13 the Spirit is sent to convict (convince) unbelievers and show believe believers what is to come

1 Cor. 2:9-12 what God has for us in eternity the Spirit is given to show us

Wesley says is by much thinking on these things.

As we go forward with this series, we will see what we need to do.

Do you live every day aware more of eternity around us or more asleep in the world?

¹ Wesley, J. (1999). [*Sermons, on several occasions*](#). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.