

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**September 17, 2017**  
**Eternity in Our Hearts**

**TEXT:** Ecclesiastes 3:11 / James 4:14

The world is a pretty unpredictable place. As Christians, we are living here only temporarily, and if we lose sight of that perspective, we will get caught up in the day to day and miss the eternal. Living here is not our primary purpose, we are just passing through.

- 1) **Man is a wonderful creature:** Eccl 3:11
    - a) Created in the image of God. Gen 1:27 / Psalm 8
    - b) We have the capacity to see beauty, in people and in our natural world, and to create beautiful things. Ps 19:1-3
    - c) We even have the capacity to appreciate beauty that is specific to a moment in time, to recognize seasons.
      - i) We are the only species that knows anachronism when we see it. We know that things have a time stamp. I loved my 79 Olds, but I don't want it now.
      - ii) We have the truly god-like capacity to see things in historical perspective and appreciate the wonder of a past moment, though it would be "anachronistic" now. (Though we seem to be losing that capacity as the likeness of God dims in our national character)
    - d) We have in our hearts the yearning to know the eternal – this is a uniquely human craving. The existence of religion of any kind argues for the existence of something transcendent. The desire to reduce all of creation to the knowable is both prideful and sad – it reduces us to the level of very clever animals.
  - 2) Why did God allow the storm, earthquake, fire, etc.?
    - a) We don't know. Because of the fall, there is random disaster in the earth, Chaos, to a degree. God does not randomly intervene in natural, or human, events.
    - b) The danger of free-will is always that people do things we don't like. **God's will is not always done.** Butterflies and hurricanes
    - c) Is it judgment? I don't know. It's coming Luke 21:25 .
    - d) What I do know: We can believe for deliverance in the storm
      - i) Paul in Acts 27 was in a mess because of the evil of others, but God delivered Him.
  - 3) The more painful issue of why some of us die "before our time."
    - a) We must not get too prideful in determining what is "our time." Jesus died at 33, Paul at 62, John in his 90's.
    - b) God's will is long life and blessing. Purpose is the first variable. **I want to live out my usefulness, and not one second longer.** 4 things in this life mitigate against the will of God.
      - i) Satan works to stop the plan of God in the earth. 1 Peter 5:8
      - ii) Adam began a process of deterioration in the planet, the impact of which causes all manner of destruction. Romans 5:12
      - iii) Hosea 4:6 says "... lack of knowledge."
      - iv) A lifetime of seed sown, crops are buried deep in our hearts.
    - c) Psalms 91:16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."
      - i) *śābā'*. to be satisfied, to be filled, to be full, to have had enough of something or too much. Proverbs 27:20 / Psalms 17:13-15
      - ii) When I get satisfied, or full, or I have just had enough, I get to see first-hand His salvation.
    - d) **For the Christian, moving to Heaven is never a defeat,** though it may cause sorrow to those who remain.
      - i) John 5:24 My eternity began the day I was born again
      - ii) Philippians 1:21-23 (23)... I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.
    - e) Deuteronomy 29:29. Some things, we don't know. God is God.
    - f) We always look first to the eternal, whether it is in our time, our finances, our relationships. How this moment, even this tragedy, fits in the eternal plan of God is our singular concern. James 4:14-16
- I just think that trusting God means we're going to have unanswered questions, and God is so much bigger than us, we're never going to understand them all.**
- Joel Osteen