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**Grace Evangelical Church**  
**Sunday, September 20, 2009**  
**"God – No Beginning Or End"**  
**Psalm 90**

I understand that there is a bumper sticker which reads:

Eternity—Your Choice: Smoking or Non-smoking!

Yes, eternity, where we will spend it is choice.

But in one sense eternity seems like a dream since we are such a time bound people.

We live our lives by our clocks and our calendars. – I have a clock on my wall and on my desk in my church office. I also have a calendar on the wall and one on my desk. I also wear a wrist watch. I'm sure you have different clocks and calendars as well

Someone has written this about the clock, "The clock is my dictator. I shall not rest. It makes me lie down only when exhausted. Yes, it leads me in circles of frenzy for activities sake. Even though I run frantically from task to task, I will never get it all done, for my "ideal" is with me. I'm sure you have different clocks and calendars as well.

Then we keep track of the days of the week, months, and years. We travel miles that are measured for us - so many miles to this place or to that place. On some cars, one can even check the miles per gallon the car is getting as one travels along.

We are born, grew to adulthood, live a few years on planet earth, celebrate birthdays, attend family gatherings, do different things, and then we are gone.

Then we listen to the happenings on the nightly news, and all we are conditioned to think about is time and what is happening in Washington, in Afghanistan, in Iran, and other parts of the world.

Yes, and we get so busy in time that it is easy to forget all about eternity if there is such a thing.

Then, when the word, eternity, is mentioned it seems irrelevant to all that is going on in time.

Eternity? Why talk about eternity? I have enough going on in my life in time. And, if there is such a thing, who can comprehend it? Is it real or the figment of one's imagination? Can eternity be described?

One man wrote (and I'm not exactly sure what his belief is about eternity), eternity is a very long time. In fact, if you were to measure eternity it would take you forever to complete your measurement. In fact, you would not be able to finish the measurement at all, because eternity has no ending. In fact, eternity does not have a beginning either.

In contrast, eternity never needs repetition to be able to continue, because it is so huge. A better analogy would be walking on a wheel of such magnitude, that it would take you forever to complete a single rotation. But in that case it might as well have been a straight path that has no ending. Or beginning, for that matter. For if this metaphorical path would have a beginning, it would mean that if you turned around and started walking back, you would eventually reach one end of the path. You cannot do this with eternity. So if some people propose time travel as a possible method of retracing eternity to its origins, they fail to grasp that there is no beginning to eternity.

Eternity – no beginning nor end. Amazing, beyond our human time bound comprehension. Yet in our text today in Psalm 90 eternity is talked about. Note what it says

## 1. The Old Testament.

**(1) Psalm 90 of Moses**, in our text, we read these awesome words about the biblical God.

"Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations, before the mountains were born, or you gave birth to the earth and the world . . . .

**"From everlasting to everlasting, You are God."**

The word for everlasting is – age lasting (**olam**) no beginning or end.

**(2) Deuteronomy 33:27** – (Part of the words that Moses blessed the nation of Israel with before his death").

**"The eternal (qedem) God is a dwelling place,** and underneath are the everlasting arms."

**Here eternal is the Hebrew word, "qedem," which means what is before in time or place, meaning eternal.**

**(3) Psalm 93:2** – The LORD's throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting – age lasting (**olam**) – No beginning or end - from eternity.

**(4) Isaiah 57:15** tells us that God inhabits eternity.

**The word for eternity (ad)** is continuity of duration – always existing.

## 2. The New Testament.

**(1) I Timothy 1:17** – "Now to the King eternal (**aionios**) age lasting, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever, Amen.

**(2) John 3:16** – eternal life – The word for eternal, (**aionios**) is age lasting – eternal – no beginning or end.

**(3) Hebrews 13:8** – "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever." The word, forever, is age lasting (**aionios**) – Jesus is eternal - has always existed.

**(4) I Peter 1:25** – "The word of the Lord endures forever (**aionios**) - (the word of God is age lasting) – it is eternal).

It's quite clear from these verses that the biblical God is eternal. So what does that mean as we continue today our study of the attributes, or characteristics of God – today the eternity of the biblical God?

Look with me at Psalm 90, this prayer of Moses given a many years ago, perhaps 1400-1500 B.C. Psalm 90, then, is the oldest Psalm and it begins the fourth book of the Psalms. Some have thought that these words of Moses were given toward the end of his life as the wandering in the wilderness for 40 years was coming to a close. Moses would not go into the Promised Land because of his disobedience to the Lord in smiting the rock and not speaking to the rock at Kadesh (Numbers 20). The first generation would not go into the Promised Land because of their unbelief when they had the opportunity under Joshua and Caleb to go into the Promised Land. Many of them already had passed away, Moses was also coming to the end of His life.

Evidently, at this time in his life, God caused Moses to reflect on God and man in the light of who God is.

### I. The eternal God exists in and of Himself (Psalm 90:1-2).

#### 1. The eternal God has always been our dwelling place.

This could better be translated, "Lord a home you have been for us, in generation and generation."

A home is a fixed or settled dwelling, a place of protection, a place of provision, of security and acceptance. A place of encouragement and development. A place of hope. A place where learning takes place in the give and take in life. A place where you can take off your shoes and feel comfortable, where you can be yourself.

What a reminder to Israel who had been wondering around for 40 years in the desert, having disobeyed the LORD.

Still God provided for them and took care of them. He was a home to Israel then, and He will continue to be a home for the second generation in the future, and He was. In fact, God is a home for every generation that believes in HIM.

Yes, even in Israel's wandering and disobedience, God was always available to His people. He always is a home for his people.

The biblical God continues to be a home for His people today. That's why Jesus told the Samaritan woman last week in John 4 that there would be a new relationship coming. The Samaritans would not worship in Mt. Gerizim, nor the Jews in Jerusalem at the temple, they would worship God in spirit and in truth.

**God would dwell in His people through faith in Jesus Christ, and believers would dwell in God.**

Such began to happen at Pentecost to the believing Jews when the Spirit came upon them and then eventually to the Gentiles who believed in Jesus, which we know now to be the church of Jesus Christ.

**John in his first letter had the Spirit's understanding of this when he penned, "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." (I John 4:13).**

The eternal God is our eternal home. God no longer dwells in buildings constructed by men, but He lives in the lives of His people who know Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

We are the local church today because God lives in each of us who knows Christ as personal Savior. God is our home. This building is not God's home. It's a place where we come together to worship the eternal God who is our home. And our collective worship acknowledges together that God is our eternal HOME, and we are here to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**An amazing thought, to say the least, in the midst of our time bound existence where everything runs by the clock. God is the believer's home on this earth right now, even before we get to the eternal home He has prepared for us. God, as the believer's home is his place of refuge, of provision, of protection, of acceptance, of forgiveness, of encouragement, of strength, wisdom, and hope.**

**There's an old saying, "There's no place like home."**

**When applied to the reality that the eternal God is our home, it takes on an eternal dimension. "There is no place like being in God's eternal home."**

**Why is the eternal God is the believer's eternal home? Note the second teaching in Psalm 90:2.**

**2. The eternal God never had an origin nor does He have an end.**

What does the text say?

"Before the mountains were born or you gave birth to the earth and world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

**Moses is telling us that biblical God always existed. He never had an origin. Furthermore, the biblical God is not an extension of His creation. He always existed before His creation. In fact, the creation has its origin in the biblical God.**

**The child asks, and we adults can do the same, "Where did God come from?"**

**Answer: He always was.**

**Such is hard for us to grasp that God always was. He is outside our way of thinking that everything has a cause.**

We can't get a handle on the fact that God never had a beginning nor an ending, for all our minds can conjure up is someone who is like us, who have a beginning and have an end.

To come to grips with the reality that there is the eternal God who is beyond us, who will not appear before our bar of reason, nor submit to our inquiries, requires a great deal of humility, a submitting to who He is in His word, and particularly to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a matter of faith. He who comes to God must believe that He is . . .

The biblical God is independent of matter and space. He is unaffected by time or motion. He is self-dependent and owes nothing to the worlds He has made.

**Yes, the biblical God, is the great "I AM." He told Moses, "I AM that I AM, which meant that God was telling Moses that "I AM THE ONE WHO IS!" As God emphasized His self-existence, His eternity to Moses.**

Perhaps Moses is thinking of that encounter with God as he pens, "from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

Our fast paced activity filled lives leave little time to reflect on the great eternal "I AM."

**Tozer challenges us with the suggestion that we in the land of the Bibles, who claim to know Christ, and attend church, can pass our whole lives without taking time to think seriously about the being of God. To take time to gaze in wonder at the "I AM" is to painful for us. We would rather think about how to build a better mousetrap, or how two blades of grass grow where one grew before. For this, Tozer continues, we are paying a high price for in the secularization of our faith and the decay of our inner lives.**

Some, Tozer goes on, even may think that to take to think about the self-existent God isn't practical for us in the changing world in which we live. Tozer's answer is that we can never know who or what we are till we know at least something of who God is. **For this reason, the self-existence of God is not a wisp of dry doctrine, academic and remote; it is in fact as near as our breath and as practical as the latest surgical technique.**

**That's why Moses continues, after talking about who the biblical God is – He is the eternal home of the believer because He is the God who has no origin – He is the "I AM," with a consideration of who man is.**

**II. Man is only a created being – He is finite (Psalm 90:3-12).**

**1. Created from dust, man returns to dust at the end of his life (90:3).**

**From dust we are to dust we return.**

**2. Man's life, no matter how long, is only a day in the sight of the eternal God (90:4-6).**

Methuselah lived 969 years but to God that was only a day. Life is here and then gone. It's like being swept away like a flood, or like grass that sprouts in the morning and from the heat of the day fades in the evening.

**3. Man is sinful and the eternal God will judge him (90:7-8). Man really declares that "he is the I AM."**

Moses keeps developing the stark contrast between the eternal God and finite man. Adam, who represented the human race sinned against God. That sin nature is now passed on from one generation to another, so that all of have sinned and come short of God's glory.

God the Creator will one day have the final say in regard to man's disobedience. The eternal God, the Creator holds man, His creation, accountable. The Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20 will come to pass regardless of the denial of men.

**4. Man's life is short (90:9-11).**

Man lives 70 years or perhaps 80 years. In time that is a number of years. In the light of God's eternity, 70 or 80 years is hardly starting to happen. My mother is 96 and says she can hardly believe that she is that old. The passing of time is hard to define. Yet it slips through our fingers like sands through the hour glass.

**But the eternal God does not let man just linger in His time bound existence.**

### **III. The eternal God is gracious to finite created man (Psalm 90:13-17).**

Note what Moses writes in Psalm 90:14.

"O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, Your hesed, Your steadfast love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us. And the years we have seen evil."

#### **1. Application in Moses' time and the next generation.**

It appears here that Moses may be thinking about how the sinfulness, the disobedience of the nation of Israel, caused the first generation to experience the judgment of God, yet in the midst of that judgment was God's forgiveness and grace. God's lovingkindness was still there in spite of what Israel had done.

**Then Moses continued asking God's eternal work and His majesty would be known to their children – that is those who would go into the Promised Land, the next generation. Then Moses asks that God's favor would rest upon them and their work would be confirmed.**

Moses recognized that it was only the eternal God who could provide His forgiveness and grace to His people while providing the direction and life the next generation would need.

#### **2. Application to us in our day and the next generations.**

**(1) Since the time of Moses has life changed at all? Has man's condition changed? Has life changed?**

- Man still returns to dust at the end of his life, showing he was created from dust.
- No matter how long we live, it is still a day in the sight of the eternal God.
- Man still displays that he is a sinner by his acts of disobedience, corruption in the heart, before the God who will one day be His Judge.
- Man's life is still very, very short in comparison to the eternal God.

Man has not changed at all, although he has created a world that is much much more advanced than the time of Moses.

So I ask another question.

#### **(2) Where is the lovingkindness of God expressed to us today?**

**Moses knew something about God's lovingkindness, as God spoke to Moses after the incident of the golden calf, where there was God's grace and judgment. Then God renewed the Mosaic Covenant with Moses on the basis of His lovingkindness.**

If man still has the same challenges, where is the steadfast love of the eternal God demonstrated today?

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the satisfaction for our sins" (I John 4:10).

"But God proves His love toward us, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The eternal God's lovingkindness is shown to us in its completeness, it's totality, in the person of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **1. In Who Jesus Christ was and is.**

He told Philip that he who had seen HIM, that is Christ, had seen the Father (John 14:9). Jesus was saying that He was God – He was eternal.

He told the Pharisees that before Abraham was, "I AM" (John 8:58).

Jesus was not only saying that He was the "I AM" of the Old Testament, but that He was the eternal God. And the Jews said "that's great." No, they took up stones to stone Him for they realized who He was saying He was, God in flesh.

For the eternal God to show us who He is in His eternal Son, Jesus Christ, is certainly the ultimate expression of God's lovingkindness. God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son.

But there is more. God's lovingkindness is fully expressed . . .

## **2. In What Jesus Christ did for us.**

Yes, He healed the sick, caused the blind to see, raise the dead, but he didn't come to be served, but to serve and give His life a ransom for many.

So He went to old Golgatha's Hill, was placed on that cruel cross, died and was buried, all for nought? No, He was there representing you and me, to take our sin upon Himself, being made sin for us, but the tremendous news is that He conquered the grave bodily.

What's that all about? Not just to provide us forgiveness of sin, but also to provide us the kind of life that we need, eternal life, life to live with God forever.

**Here is bottom line concerning who Jesus Christ is and what He had done for us.**

**The death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ provide us the ultimate indisputable evidence that there is the eternal God.**

Yes, we have God's unchanging Word, the Bible, but only the risen Christ gives proof of its lasting validity. How do we know that the Word of God lives and abides forever? The Christ who came to fulfill it, came, died on the cross, was buried and He rose from the grave. In His resurrection body, He tells us that the Old Testament is true (Luke 24:44). He tells us that when the Holy Spirit is come He will guide into all truth (John 16:13), foretelling of the New Testament Scriptures. He gave validity to Adam and Eve, to Noah and Jonah. There is also the nation Israel that gives evidence of an eternal God who is involved in their lives and God still has a future for them.

**But the ultimate indisputable evidence that there is the eternal biblical God is the death, burial, bodily resurrection, and we can add the bodily ascension of Jesus Christ.**

**AGAIN, Jesus Christ in who He is and what He has done tells us convincingly that the biblical God is eternal.**

**So what does this all mean for us?**

## **IV. The eternal God changes our lives in time to count for eternity.**

### **1. For Moses.**

Let's go back to Psalm 90 and read Psalm 90:12.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom."

Some have translated this verse, "So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

In the revelation that Moses had of the eternal God, he realized that the one who knew God personally through faith should recognize that his time on earth should be used wisely for the Lord. Time was a gift from the eternal God who created time. He realized that in time He could do things for God for eternity.

### **2. For us today.**

Paul wrote the New Testament commentary for us today on this verse in Ephesians 5:15-17 - **"Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time (the word is redeem), so it can be translated, buying up (purchasing) continually the time (the opportunities), because the days are evil – so then, do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is."**

**This is an amazing portion of God's word.  
Let me explain it this way.**

**(1) We all stand in need of God's forgiveness and eternal life.**

"All have sinned and fall short of God's standard of holiness, His glory." We are all members of time, bound for God's judgment. That's what Psalm 90 told us as well.

**(2) The eternal Christ comes into time, takes upon Himself flesh to win over sin, death, the evil one, the old nature, and the philosophy of the world that is against the eternal God.**

**(3) Through His death, burial, and bodily resurrection, Jesus pays the penalty for our sin, and wins for us eternal life, life that has complete victory over time – eternal redemption has been won.**

**(4) Through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, the believer receives the eternal life of God. The believer is made a new creation in Christ.**

**(5) Indwelt by God, having God as his home, the believer now in the power of the Holy Spirit can redeem the time, that is buy up the opportunities in time, which wears out, to be used for eternal purposes, and in so doing one can lay up treasures in heaven where moth, and rust are nowhere in sight.**

This is what it means to know the eternal God personally through faith in Jesus Christ.

**So the question which comes to each of us to day who say that we know Jesus Christ as personal Savior is this:**

**"AM I BUYING UP THE TIME FOR THE LORD THAT REDEMPTION IN CHRIST HAS GIVEN ME?"**

OR

**"AM I USING THE TIME THAT REDEMPTION IN CHRIST HAS GIVEN ME FOR MYSELF?"**

**This is the real choice for the believer who knows he or she is going to the non smoking home in heaven and not the smoking abode in hell.**

**What kind of a steward am I of the time the eternal God gives me?**

**Yes, whatever we do, whether, we eat or drink, we can do all to the glory of God. In that process, do I use the time God gives me wisely, doing that which is really important and valuable for the kingdom of God?**

**1. How about as an individual?**

We have certain responsibilities at work, at home, and in the community. Do I have some time to spend each day with the Lord in reading His Word and in prayer. Do I just un through a prayer list, or do I really have a concern for the lost around me, and what is going on in God's world? Am I praying for those areas for which God has a concern. Do I watch for opportunities to say something for the Lord if that option comes along.

**2. How about as husbands and wives?**

Do we take time to be together and enjoy each other's company in the midst of our activities.

**3. How about with our children, if they are still at home?**

Spending specific times together, enjoying each other and doing things together, building relationships.

**4. How about in our church family?**

Taking time to pray for those we know who have needs. How about getting involved in a small group Bible study this fall.

Or how about offering yourself to teach a Sunday School Class with our children or youth, or offering to help with the Youth ministry. Sign up to be a greeter, or to be part of the custodial team. Don't be just a Sunday attender.

This week on Tuesday evening, those who come at 6:30 PM will go out into the community to visit people asking how they are doing in their spiritual lives, and how can we pray for them. Want to experience something of what God may be doing in this way, come on Tuesday evening.

### 5. How about in our neighborhoods and at school?

Seeking to build relationships by being a friend and available to help in any way. Eventually having the opportunity to share about Christ's love.

All of us have the same amount of time – 24 hrs in a day. We all have different things to do, different responsibilities, depending on where we are in life's journey. We can all do whatever to the glory of God. But in that day, we are also to be in process of being a witness for the Lord, of using the gifts and talents God has given us to touch others with His love and grace.

We are to be buying up the opportunities that God gives us in His Power in time so that the time God gives us, which is slipping through our fingers, can be used for eternal purposes to further God's eternal kingdom, His church, to the glory of God.

**But in the process of buying up the opportunities God gives us, we need to keep life in balance and beware of the bareness of a busy life.**

**That 's why someone has written these words.**

- ∞ Slow me down Lord.
- ∞ Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind.
- ∞ Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time.
- ∞ Give me amid the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.
- ∞ Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory.
- ∞ Teach me the art of minute vacations – of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to smile at a child, to read a few lines from a good book.
- ∞ Slow me down Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values, that I may grow toward my greater destiny.
- ∞ Remind me each day that the race is not always to the swift; that there is more to life than increasing its speed.
- ∞ Let me look forward to the towering oak, and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

**Yes, that all means that in keeping a balance in our lives as we buy up the opportunities in time that the Eternal God gives us, we need to keep focused on the Lord and finish the tasks God gives us.**

**The story is told of the farmer who went out hunting with his hound dog.** When the farmer returned, he still seemed refreshed, but the dog flopped down on the porch, exhausted. Someone asked the farmer what was wrong with his dog. He replied this way, "Well, it wasn't the walking. We only walked about 10 miles. But there wasn't a gate open that my dog didn't go in and examine the whole field. Not a cat appeared but that he had to chase it – rabbits too. And there wasn't a dog barked, but the he wore himself out barking back and showing fight. He must have gone 50 miles to my 10 miles. No it weren't the route that got him, but the zigzagging."

Moses evidently knew about zigzagging, for He asked God to teach him to number his days that he may gain a heart of wisdom, so that the time eternal God gave Him would count for the eternal God.

Paul wrote many years later, be wise, continually buy up the time opportunities. . . . for this is God's will for you.

**How an amazing and loving is eternal God we know through faith in Jesus Christ. His will for us is that the time He gives us will count for eternity so He will be glorified through us, His kingdom be furthered and we will have eternal fulfillment in time as we live for Him, while eventually receiving His eternal reward for our faithfulness to Him. May it be so in our lives this week.**

