

12/14/03 – “TIME & ETERNITY”

John 8:48-59

Jesus Christ existed before Bethlehem, though that is the place He was born

Jesus Christ existed before Abraham...”Before Abraham was born, I am.” – John 8:58-59

He paid the price, He was to die on a cross, He was born to be cursed, rejected, reviled, stripped, abused, abandoned – **He was born to die for us**

Abraham, the man of faith saw from afar & rejoiced – vs. 56...that is, **the day of Messiah**

We walk by faith not sight...The Lord is so much bigger than our circumstances...He is in control & sustains all creation – Col. 1:15-17

Without faith we turn the Lord into an ineffective God that only functions within our limited view of reality

The Great I AM of all Eternity

At the burning bush Moses asks, “Who do I say sent me?” God says, “**I AM** who I Am tell them **I AM** sent you.”

We can be glad that He didn’t say, “Tell them **I WAS** sent me or **I WILL BE** sent me.”...He is the uncaused first cause

We serve a God who is the great **I AM** – He is now – He is not far from you – He’s near

You & I are the ones who get far from Him – He’s not far – He’s our refuge & strength, a very present help in trouble

What is it that the great **I AM** can’t fix? **He is eternal in the present tense**, the uncreated Creator of all things

“Now unto the **King eternal**, immortal, invisible, the only God be honor and glory **forever** and ever. Amen.” – 1 Timothy 1:17

If we encounter the great **I AM**, we will be undone as John was at Patmos (Rev. 1:17) & Isaiah in the temple (Isaiah 6)

We serve an **everlasting God** who could not give everlasting life unless **He is everlasting**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever would believe would have **everlasting life** & would not perish” - Jn. 3: 16

What else can God do to show His love but to send His Son? What do we have to do? Can I earn it?

Do I have to crawl on my knees, go on a pilgrimage, or do this, or that in order to be good enough?

Simply put, **we are not good enough, & never will be** – He put His righteousness on us & took our sin upon Himself

What’s in it for you, Lord?...not such a great deal...**all He gets is us** – God is love

If He doesn’t die for us then we are lost in our sin & as the Apostle Paul says, “The most pitied of all men.”

Time & Eternity

Distinct from the beginning & end is **eternity** – God created time in eternity, for us to know, love & serve Him

Our whole economy is built on time – Capitalism, man hours, production, etc...but time is more than a measurement

Time is life – “My times are in Thy hand;” (Psalm 31:15) – Time is the servant of God in eternity – He shall be the stability of your times (Isaiah 33:16)

Time is the great equalizer, 24 hours a day since Adam...“Time marches on.” - **Salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed**

How can we use our time for God? In the prayer closet, in praise, in study, in fellowship, & worship...in our vocation & all of life

We all have 24 hrs. - What are we going to do with our time? Serve the eternal purposes of God or our own temporal purposes?

If our time doesn’t belong to the Lord, **whom does it belong to?** If not to God, then to whom? Someone or something gets our time!

We say Christ was born, the angels would say He descended, laid aside His glory...The Word (God) became flesh & lived here

He experienced everything we experience, thirst, hunger, people, tiredness, anger, temptation...yet without sin

In His descent He came **to seek & save the lost** – He is the good shepherd - **He’ll leave all 99 to find the one sheep** – you & me

He is a King – Emmanuel – God with us - He has put eternity in our hearts & calls us to live in time for His glory

The Lion, the Lamb, Messiah, Savior, Lord, King of Kings & Lord of Lords...In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son – Galatians 4:4