

GREAT THOUGHTS



ETERNITY!

O MORTAL, who hast an immortal soul. Study, meditate upon, thoroughly realized that great word ETERNITY!

I may reckon upon 1,000 years, 10,000 years, 100,000,000×100,000 years, so many millions of times 1,000 years as there are: leaves on the trees of the forest, blades of grass in the fields, grains of sand on the seashore, drops of water in the ocean, stars in the sky: and yet I will not yet have begun to tell what thou art O ETERNITY!

A day will come when the sun will have ceased to give light. The world will have been burnt up. The race of man will have come to an end. The living and the dead will have been judged. Ages upon ages will be over; and after this, there will have been abysses of duration since that day of life which passed so quickly; life will appear no longer, save in the immense distance, like those stars which we can scarce perceive, like a dream that has passed away. And there will be still, as much as ever, ETERNITY FOR AN ETERNITY!

For it will always last, it will never end. O ALWAYS! O NEVER! O ETERNITY!

If there is an eternity for me in *heaven*, what an inconceivable blessing! *Always* truth and virtue, life and bliss, the blessed and the Angels. GOD to contemplate, to love, to possess, to bless, *always*. Nevermore any tears, or death or sorrow, or mourning (Apoc. 21: 4).

But if there were an eternity reserved for me in *hell*, what a terrible misery!

Always the stain of sin. Always the outer darkness. Always the gnawing of worms. Always the torment of fire. Always the imprisonment in chains. Always the overflowing of tears. Always the gnashing of teeth. Always the blasphemies of the damned. Always the torments inflicted by the Devils. Always the overwhelming curse of God. *Always?* ALWAYS!

--- And Never ---

A ray of light to give joy. A moment of sleep to restore. A drop of water to refresh. A friendly word to console.

NEVER TO SEE GOD. NEVER! O ALWAYS! O NEVER! O ETERNITY!

O Mortal who hast an immortal soul, there *is* an ETERNITY, and you give no thought to it! You have no thought of it, and that ETERNITY is for you! Even now you are on the brink of that eternity! And after a little while there will be no more:

Of all that *business* which occupies you.

Of all those *pleasures* that amuse you.

Of all that *life* which you abuse.

ETERNITY!

ETERNITY, and your *works* and your *fruits* will alone remain. The pleasure of the sinner will have passed away, but his sufferings will remain.

Therefore, either the pleasures of time with the sufferings of eternity; or the sufferings of time with the pleasures of eternity.

CHOOSE!

I *have* chosen. I wish to pass eternity in Heaven, I wish to pass it *with* God.

Eternal God, O my Sovereign Judge! Seized with terror, I throw myself at Thy feet. In presence of Thy Eternity I have no hope save in the greatness of Thy mercy, and in the bitterness of my repentance. Pardon, pardon me, for having run the risk, by my sins, of losing Thee for ETERNITY.

I believe in Thee and in ETERNITY. I hope in Thee, and from Thy goodness I hope for a happy ETERNITY. I love Thee, and wish to love Thee throughout ETERNITY. Strike, apply the knife and caustic to my wounds. Spare me not in time, but save me, O save me for ETERNITY!

TIME – The Purchase Price of Eternity

Time is the measure of our lives; so much as we lose of our time, so much we lose of the precious span of our life. The future is not ours; we cannot promise ourselves a single moment of time. The present moment is all we can call our own; it passes away in an instant, and once gone, it can never be recalled.

Time is given us that we may secure for ourselves eternal happiness. There is not a moment in which we cannot store up treasures for ETERNITY. Lost moments are therefore like so many LOST ETERNITIES. Our eternal salvation or damnation depends upon the good or bad use of our time, and ETERNITY hangs upon the tiny balance of a single moment.

Time is short and passes quickly! So do the enjoyments, honors, riches, and pleasures of the world. But ETERNITY endures – ETERNITY and the good and evil which it holds – endures forever, without change, without any mixture of ill in its perfect happiness or any alloy of comfort in its perfect misery.

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