

# *Eternity*

*By Brother Emerson A. Wilson*

*\*This message (Eternity) was preached on June 1, 1980 by the late Brother Emerson A. Wilson. It has been transcribed with minor alterations in an attempt to preserve the original burden of the message.*

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Church of God  
3064 Coopermill Road  
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

I hope you have your Bible. We want to study some things that I'm sure many are well aware of; some things that we all could stand some brushing up on; and some things that are seemingly becoming confusing.

*Isa. 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

I want you to look at the first part of that verse. I'm using it for a reason. "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity." I want to talk about eternity. Somebody says, "We don't know too much about it". Well, we do want to study what little bit God has revealed to us. Somebody may ask why I chose this verse. I chose this verse because it's the only text in the King James version where eternity is mentioned. The word *world* in the Hebrew or Greek is translated nine different ways. Many places where the word *world* is used it means *eternity*. We are looking at the verse where the word *eternity* is brought out in the King James version.

When we look at the word eternity, I want you to see that it's one of the greatest and most comprehensive words in any language ---Eternity. My friend, when we even mention the word eternity, we're using a word that is beyond any illustration or vocabulary. It's impossible to put all languages together and begin to get an explanation of the word eternity. It's beyond this world. It's greater than this world. It's more expansive than all time that has ever been. I want to repeat we're dealing with the most comprehensive word that can be found.

In this life, this mortal life that you and I are living, we're subject to time. The period between the creation of man and the consummation (end of all things which is out ahead of us) there's a space called Time. The word of God lets us know, Moses praying in the 90th Psalm, there he prayed "From everlasting to everlasting" or if you get the Hebrew "from eternity to eternity----Thou art God". God who inhabits eternity cut out a space called Time. We've been in that space around six thousand years. We're just about down to the very end of it. Time is running out. My friend, we need to realize, how much longer Time will continue no one truly knows. But this we do know truly, by the Bible, that as sure as Time

exists, it will come to an end one of these days. Even though the Bible does not tell us when that will be, it definitely tells us that time will come to an end. With this in view, the word of God lets us know that the cry will be heard one of these days: “time will be no more”. And that merely means in the fullest sense that there will be no more time. Eternity, putting it in the most simple way I know how means duration without any limit. When God sees fit to sound forth the trumpet and let us know that time will be no more, right beyond that cry will be eternity; a time of duration with no limit.

When we think of eternity we’re thinking about a duration that no cycle of years can measure. I want you to think well on it before we say what we’ve got to say to you tonight. A brother down in Illinois corrected the thought of an expression I’ve used many times: where will you spend eternity? But you can’t spend eternity. You’ll be there forever and never spend it. I’m taking a little time right here because we are so bound by the years of time and the expansion of time. We begin to talk about spending eternity and if we’re not careful we’ll think of it in terms of something that we can spend, use up, or that it will be over. But when I use eternity I want to use it Biblically. My friend, it means a duration without any limit.

Time is measured by moments, hours, days, weeks, months, years, and centuries. But eternity is like a boundless ocean, a shoreless sea. In the Bible, the apostle Paul speaks of eternity as a world without end. Some may say we all know about eternity. Well, I want to make sure you know because we’re in a day and time when people are setting forth some teachings of many kinds. It is well for us to come back and see what the Bible says about some of these things.

I heard one brother say suppose a bird came from a distant planet somewhere; and every one million years it would pick up a beak full of water and carry it back to that distant planet. Just one beak every one million years it would make the trip. After it had carried all of the water in the ocean, the seas, the rivers, the ponds, every bit of water would be carried away. Eternity would just be beginning. Somebody may say that’s foolish. No. I’m merely trying to get our thinking widen out to the place where we can take in this thought of eternity.

Now when we think about eternity, something of an endless duration, we want to add, that you and I are going to eternity. Everyone is going to live in

eternity. I might add to it and have the Bible under my feet, you're going to live forever in eternity. Roman Catholicism came along with a teaching of just burning in hell for so long, just a period of time, and then getting out. The devil never quits on that angle. He's always got someone coming up with the thought that you're going to burn awhile and then that will be the end of it. But, friend, if I get nothing else established in this message on eternity, get this established, everyone is going to eternity and the Bible has some things to say about eternity.

First of all, the Bible lets us know that you and I are right now forming a character for eternity. We're building a life, a character that we're going to put up with throughout the ceaseless periods of time--if you want to use the word time--in eternity where there is no time. We're building a life and a character. One of the great fallacies of religion today is that there is going to be a great change when Jesus comes or when the resurrection takes place, as far as your character, spirit, attitude and desires. There will be no change. You'll be exactly in eternity as you are right here unless you change.

In this endless period of duration, the Bible plainly states that there are two states that are extremely different. One of which will be assigned to every man or woman. Friend, when you and I leave this veil of life, whether we leave it individually through the experience of death or we live until Jesus comes and we're changed, we are either going to enjoy the happiness of Heaven or the misery of Hell. Both of them are unending.

Many terms are used in the scripture to express eternity. The word *everlasting* is used, which mean eternity: *everlasting* destruction, *everlasting* fire. The word *eternal* is used expressing eternity. Other scriptures use the expression *forever and ever and ever*. All of them teaching the same truth that it's eternity. All of these terms are used to convey to our minds one thought: duration. Let's get this clear. Duration, eternity means forever. Eternity means everlasting. Eternity means eternal. Duration of what? Either duration of the \_\_ of the righteous that are given to enjoy or else the terrible punishment of the wicked in hell. In both cases the terms are used interchangeably: everlasting, eternal, forever and ever.

Now we cannot by the Bible (and I say it with all kindness) accept teaching that people do not live forever after death. That's a settled foundation truth that's been truth as long as the Bible was ever given. And when anybody begins to raise

up and try to change the thought that somebody isn't going to live forever after death, just for a period of time, right there I shut the door. Why? It's contrary to sound Bible teaching. We're going to take it apart a little bit. My friend, the Bible, dealing with the space after death of man, always deals with forever, everlasting and eternal.

The first reason we know that the life after death, or eternity, is forever is because man was created a living soul. Let's start at the bare facts in the beginning. In Genesis 1:27 He said he *created* man in His own image. In Genesis 2:7 He *formed* man from the dust of the earth. You study the words *create* and *form*. God said, "Let us create" and He created man in His own image. There is a part of man that was created; there is a part that was formed from the dust of the earth. The part that was formed from the dust of the earth is not the image of God. Why? God is not made of dust and dirt. God is a moral being. God is a spiritual being. John 4:24 says God is a spirit. So there has to be a part of man that God created which is in His likeness. That part is the soul; the spirit of man, the moral and spiritual part of man. In the Scriptures it's called the inner man or the soul.

Now, I want to nail down two or three thoughts. When God created man in His own image, He created him a living soul. He is made in the image of God, a spirit, and that soul is going to live as long as God lives somewhere. Why? I could heap Scriptures in Isaiah where people thought God was dead. He let them know He wasn't dead. He said, "All souls are Mine and all souls live unto Me". They will live as long as God lives. Within every creature, everyone of you, there is a never dying soul made in the image of God. It's immortal. Study the word *immortal*. The word *immortal* means never dying. Don't talk to me about a soul going somewhere and burning so long and then dying. An immortal soul cannot die because it's made in the image of God.

Our inward man is a spiritual being. We come from the Father of spirits, according to Hebrews that twelfth chapter. According to Acts 17 we're God's offspring; and he was talking to sinners. He was telling them God is not very far off from everyone of you. For we're His offspring. Paul believed the thought that everyone is the offspring of God. How are we the offspring of God? God is the Father of spirits. Every soul is fathered by God. Every spirit is fathered by God. It's God's offspring.

In Ecclesiastes that third chapter we find just exactly what happens at death. Much confusion comes about today because people don't understand eternal life. Eternal life isn't life in eternity. I can prove to you that everything is going to live in eternity, every person. But everyone is not going to have eternal life. Eternal life comes in when Christ comes in; but even if people don't have eternal life, they have a never dying soul that is going to live forever. Eternal life is spiritual life. Eternal life is life with God. People raise up and try to tell you that nobody but the the Christian has eternal life [ability to live forever] and folks that do not have eternal life are not going to live in eternity. Everybody is going to live in eternity. Sinner and saint alike is going to live in eternity.

Ecclesiastes 3:18 - 21 *I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. (It is well for us to realize that, as far as the human nature is concerned, it's much like the animal nature. This is why you see mankind without God out here, far removed from God. They are living like the animals. And I don't mean in Haiti. I took my daughter to school the other morning. Some of the things that the young people were doing right on the sidewalk ---What am I talking about? Animals! They've lost all decency. Falling under the plague of unnatural affection to a great degree. Somebody may say, "Are you saying we're beasts? Let's read it.) ... that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

Now let's get it plain. When God breathed in that man He made from the dust, He breathed within him the breath of life and he became a living soul. But if you get the Hebrew, it says he became a living being. We as individuals have the same breath of life, physical life, as the animals have. We die like the animal, as far as death is concerned. *For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place;* (What is he talking about? He is talking about the body, the outward man. How do you know? Because the animal doesn't have a soul. If you leave the soul out of the picture and we are just like the animals. When we die we go back to the earth, just

like the animal. But the wise man knew more than that. He said *all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth.* He began to bring forth a thought that when the life leaves the animal the life of the animal goes into the earth and is buried with the body of the animal. When man dies, his spirit goes upward; his spirit takes a departure; his spirit moves out; his spirit operates freely from the body. We need to lay ahold of his next statement that there is a soul; there is an inner spirit in every one of us that can live with or without a body. It still lives just the same, whether it's in a body or out of a body. It does not have to have a body to live in. He lets us know at the time of death, that when man lays down and dies, he may lay down like the horse and the cow but there is a spirit in him; there is a soul in him. There is an inner being that goes upward.

I think he makes it a little plainer in Ecclesiastes 12:7 when he speaks about when death comes upon us, he says *then shall the dust be turned to earth as it was and the spirit shall return unto the God who gave it.* Now, brother, God is the Father of spirits; God gives the spirit. When death comes on you, the Bible tells us the body goes back into the earth from which it came and the spirit goes to the God who gave it. This spirit, this soul of man, is immortal; it's eternal; it's never dying; it has no end. Somebody says, "You're saying that so much". We need to get a hold of this. My friend, the spirit is immortal.

You look over in Luke the twentieth chapter. We bring Luke to the witness stand. There he tells us the same thing. Here we quickly looked at a picture of how God made man and the inward being, the spirit, the soul in His own image. He formed the outward from the dust of the earth when He made the first man. Then, when death comes on us, the body goes back to the earth, just like the animals. But there is a spirit in him that goes back to God. He went on to tell us in the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes that spirit goes back to the God who gave it. In Luke 20:37 we come on a little farther. I want you to see this thing is unending. Eternity means without duration. Here we have taken man up to death. Let me repeat, when death comes on us the body goes back to the earth as it was and the spirit goes to the God that gave it. Somebody may say, "Brother Wilson, are you saying that the spirit lives without the body?" Yes! My friend, it lives forever. Wherever it is, it's living. I'm not a bit in agreement with this teaching of 'even



souls sleep'. When your soul leaves the body, it's just as alive, just as alert, one second after death comes on you as you were before. It does not go to sleep and sleep from there until the second coming of Christ. No, no, no! How do I know? All I have to do for one thing is look in the Revelation. There John saw the souls of them that were beheaded. They weren't asleep. They lived, they reigned with Christ during a thousand years during the Dark Ages. John said they lived and they reigned. They weren't asleep. You can't do any reigning while you're asleep. They were alive. He saw the souls under the altar in the sixth chapter. People that had been beheaded down here, people who Rome had cut their head off and their bodies were burned. John saw their souls over in Paradise having a hallelujah time! He saw the souls under the altar, pleading with God for people down here on the earth; that God would bring judgment against the falseness of religion. I'm glad I get to live in a day when God puts judgement on old Babylon and tells people of her true condition.

Now get it fixed, the soul never dies. The soul is immortal. The word immortal means never dying. And I've brought forth Scripture that lets you see that it doesn't even sleep. Somebody may say that they rest from their labors. Well, every time I sit down to rest, I'm not sleeping. Amen. The scripture is merely saying they rest from their labors; thank God they've laid the cross down, the burden they carried. When death comes upon us we rest from our work for God. The yoke is gone, the burden is gone, the cross is gone---call it what you may. Thank God, it's laid down when death comes upon us and we can begin to enjoy a rest from our own labors.

In Luke 20: 37-38, Jesus Himself brought forth to the Sadducees, the truth that the soul never dies. The Sadducees came to Jesus. They didn't believe in a resurrection. They asked him a question about the woman who had several husbands and wanted to know whose wife she would be in the resurrection. He went on and taught them that the children of the resurrection don't get married or give in marriage. The reason being, marriage was only for one thing: procreation. I know it's for most everything else now. But you go back and study what marriage was for; it's for procreation. I'm not saying older folks can remarry or get married for companionship and friendship. I don't like to live alone myself. But I'm saying the real idea of marriage when God set it in order was for

procreation. So, He merely tells us that in the resurrection, we won't marry or give in marriage. Why? Because when we get to that place, nobody is going to die. You won't need to replenish any generation. Everybody is going to live forever. This is the point He is getting at. To prove it He goes back to the burning bush where God appears to Moses. And this is what verse 37 says, *Now that the dead are raised even Moses showed at the bush when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.* You go back there when God appeared to Moses and set that bush on fire. Moses went over there and He told him to get his shoes off because he was on holy ground. God said to him, I AM I AM. I'm the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. What a message to a man! Abraham has been dead for many years. Isaac had been dead for many years. Jacob had been dead for many years. And here was God saying, "I'm their God. I'm still their God. They're very much alive, Moses. They are just as alive tonight as when they walked here on the earth and I'm still their God. They're over in another part of creation but I'm still their God. They are living right on." Oh, that isn't what He meant? Read the next verse. *For He is not a God of the dead but of the living who all live unto Him.* Now what is he talking about? He is talking about people that have died and gone on: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God is not a God of the dead. All live unto Him. What truth is he setting forth? Your relation may have been dead for fifty years but they are as much alive tonight because all live unto Him. Why do all live unto Him? Because He created an immortal soul in everyone of us that death has no power over a bit more than it has power over God. They're all alive. All live unto Him.

Now the Bible tells us right beyond death is a place called Hades, a place of disembodied spirits, a place for spirits that have moved out of the body through death. Hades, according to the Bible is divided into two places: Paradise for the saved soul or spirit and Gehenna, or Hell for the lost soul or spirit. The Word of God has uncapped both places to let us know that people are alive there.

Revelation 6:20 John said I saw the souls that were beheaded and they lived. Not people--- but souls. Men and women had their heads cut off down here. Papal Rome had raised up and killed 60 million Christians and John saw their souls. So out there in Hades, God has a place prepared. You and I can't see it with the natural eye but it's out there. And He's uncapped it. He let us look at souls rejoicing over in Paradise. Paul was caught up into that third Heaven right into

Paradise. And it was so wonderful and beautiful that he said, "It's not lawful for me to speak. I can speak seven languages but I don't have any tongue to tell you the beauty and the glory that exists there". He said, "I have a great desire to go and be with the Lord which is far better than here". It's out there and souls are living.

Then He uncapped Hell. I want to use Hell in the Biblical way. Paradise is not the end. Paradise is just the waiting place between death and the second coming of Christ. Hell is not the end. Hell is just a waiting place of torment between death and the second coming. In Luke 16, when He uncapped Hell, time had not come to an end. The rich man's brothers were still here on the earth. "I've got brothers back there living". If time had come to an end, if Jesus Christ had made His second appearance, if Hell was the final end and the final place of torment then the earth would have been burnt up. There would have been no one here to preach to. The fact is, while this rich man was in Hell he had brothers living right back here on the earth that he wanted somebody to go preach to so they didn't come to this terrible place. Here is Hades, the place where souls live. A part of it is Paradise where souls who are saved lived and died true to God. They rejoice. They enjoy the felicities of Paradise. Hell is a place where people who fail to get right with God end up one moment after death, very much alive; with all their faculties working.

Let's go a little farther and look at this Hell. We're going step by step. Right now we've got the souls of men out of the body. Their bodies have been buried but their souls are very much alive and active. They have memory, they have feelings. Very active, yet without the body, very much alive. Now let me repeat Paradise according to Bible is a place where saved souls wait until the second coming of Christ. Hell, or Gehenna, is place where lost souls are held in reserve in torment. In Mark 9:43 Jesus says, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched". He went on to tell you about the foot. He said, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched". The third time He talks about the eye-- "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched".

A whole lot of the New Testament is taken from the Old Testament. Many of the sayings that Jesus and the apostles spoke forth as truth came from the Old

Testament. This thing is the place where the worm never dies. You first find it in Isaiah 66. Here is where the language was taken from. My friend when Israel so failed God, backslid, rebelled, backed off, you'll find the place called the Valley of Hinnom where the carcasses of those were thrown. The valley was full of putrid carcasses. Anytime you would go there and look the worms were eating and working on the putrid carcasses. Now Jesus picks up that expression from Old Testament prophecy. He takes it from the Valley of Hinnom where the carcasses were laid and the worms were continually working. He brings it over into New Testament light and makes it as a picture of the unending destruction and torment of Hell. Over there the worms never cease to work. I could bring it up in the New Testament. Outside of Jerusalem there was a place called Gehenna where the rubbish, garbage, and filth of the city was thrown. The worms were working continually. Anytime you went there, the worms were working. I'm telling you, Jesus gave it a New Testament setting and took it as an example of the unending torture and remorse that ones would suffer in Hell.

Some might question why He said it's where the worm never dies; why is it unending torture? The first reason is because the soul whose conscience is its constant tormentor is immortal. I want you to see why the worm never dies. Secondly, God whose wrath is a constant terror, is eternal. You've got a never dying soul, an immortal soul to put up with through eternity. You'll not have a thing. There won't be a drug pill; there won't be a fifth of liquor; there won't be a book to read; a TV to watch; nothing to get your mind off. Somebody might say, "I'd go crazy if I thought on that all the time!" You're going to think on it all the time and you'll wish you could go crazy----but you can't.

This thing is more real than I can make it. Isaiah 57:20 "There is no peace to the wicked, saith my God." I had people ask me not long ago at a funeral service, when the family was so broke up, burying someone that wasn't right with God. They asked the question that wounds your heart. They said, "We know that Daddy made no profession. He never went to church. He had nothing to do with God. But will he have any rest or peace between death and the Judgement?" Oh, you hate to tell them the truth but you've got to. No, there is no peace to the wicked. There will be no peace right now while they're living. There will be no peace after death. Don't be deceived. A lot of people are being deceived out here on this

thought. See, no matter how bad of shape you are in, the undertaker can fix you up today and make you look 100%. People stand right there and look at the body and say, "He looks so peaceful". If you could see his soul screaming out in the torments of Hell you would have a different picture. There is no peace to the wicked. There is no peace to the wicked. I know people say, "Brother Wilson, we're not wicked." That word has been twisted around. Who is the wicked by the Bible? The wicked is everyone that hasn't returned to the Lord in real repentance and got real salvation. Isaiah 55, "Let the wicked forsake his way". There is no peace to the wicked. Psalm 9:17 says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all nations that forget God".

Here is the picture. God created in us a never dying soul that is immortal. It's going to live as long as long as God lives. He made the body from the dust. He has ordained that death come upon us. It's an appointment for man once to die and after this the Judgement. My friend, when death comes upon us the body goes back to the earth; the spirit goes back to God who gave it. He makes right distribution of it. If it's a saved soul it goes to Paradise to rest with the saints until the second coming of Christ. If it's a lost soul it goes to Hell to be tortured until the second coming of Christ.

Acts 24:15 Paul said that there would be a resurrection of the dead both the just and the unjust. Now if you're going to try to tell me that the sinner is going to be in the resurrection and going to the Judgement, then he's just going to go to Hell and be destroyed, I want you to tell me what kind of body the sinner is going to have in the resurrection.

The Bible tells us there is going to be a resurrection of the just and the unjust. Jesus said in John 5:28-29 that it's not going to be a thousand years apart but the hour is coming. In the same hour all that are in the grave, saint and sinner alike, is going to hear the voice of the Son of God and shall come forth. They that have done good, the saints, unto resurrection of life. They that have done evil, the sinner, unto the resurrection of damnation. Now you mark it down, a resurrection is going to amplify what we are. We're going to be more of what we are after the resurrection than what we are now.

Now the Bible plainly teaches there is going to be a resurrection. If this is true, I want to repeat, what kind of a body? What kind of body are people going to

have? Is it going to be a body that you just suffer in for a period of time and it will all be over? No, sir! I'm going to read it out of the Bible. You've got an immortal soul. When Jesus comes again, whether you're a saint or a sinner, you're going to have an immortal body; a never dying body! Why? Because the next move is eternity. You're going to have a body that's going to last forever and ever and ever. You have to have it. You wouldn't last 5 seconds in the lake of fire but the Bible says you're going to be there forever. It will be an immortal body. Look in First Corinthians 15:35. You can read all of it; it's good. "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up?" Here is what they are saying today: the saint will have an immortal body and will live forever but the sinner is coming out with a body where he will burn just so long and burn up and it will all be over. Now let's see what the Bible says if you don't mind. "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" Now, I'm not as hard a preacher as Paul was: thou fool. How would you like to have him as your pastor. You come around after services and say, "Brother Wilson, what kind of body will we have?" Why, you saved fool! You mean you don't know that. "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain". In other words the body that comes out in God's plan of new life, whether it is a grain of wheat or a grain of corn, you don't get the same body back that you sow. Mark that down. That is a principle of divine truth. You sow one grain of wheat in the ground. A stalk comes up with blades and whole lot of grain with beards on it. That grain you put in was clean shaven, bald headed. But when it comes up it's got a beard and hair all over it. Come on! He went through the plan of nature and let you see that it's in God's plan. That which you sow is not that which you expect to reap. You expect to reap something different. How many farmers would stay in business if they dropped two grains of corn in each hill with a little fertilizer and then went out in the fall and got two grains back? No, they believe in God's plan. They believe that resurrection brings amplification.

He said in verse 39-41 "All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and

another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.” We’re all going to have glory. But some are going to differ and have more glory than the others and that according to how much you shine when you are here. Somebody may say, “Don’t you know that all the saints cups are going to be full in Heaven?” Yeah, but some are going to have bigger cups than others. Come on, His simple teaching was “lay up for yourself treasures in Heaven”.

Some may say, “I’m not sure if I like this resurrection business or not.” Well, you’re heading for it. It’s going to happen to you. Paul made it plain. We may not all sleep. We may not all be dead but we’ll all be changed. The sinner is not going to the lake of fire with this kind of body. We’ll all be changed! How are we going to be changed. He said, “So also is the resurrection of the dead. It’s sown in corruption; it’s raised in incorruption”. This old body that we sow in the ground when we bury our loved ones, is a corruptible body. It’s a mortal body. It’s a decaying body. It’s made of the earth. It’s corruptible. But that body that is coming out won’t be corruptible. It won’t die. It won’t corrupt. It won’t get old. It won’t get weak. That body that you go to hell in will be young there forever. You’ll be strong there forever. It won’t know the corruption. Why? We are heading to it. It’s going to be an eternal body; not measured by time. Time won’t have any wear on it.

People, every once in awhile, will ask me lots of questions around funerals. I bury a baby and they say, “ Brother Wilson, I know she went to Heaven because all little babies are going there”. I say, “That’s right”. “Well how old will she be in Heaven? When I get there, how old will she be?” I said, “No old”. That’s how old everyone of us will be. No time. You have to have time to have age. The old will be young there forever. No old. See these things are hard for us to get into our mind here because we are so hung up by time. Listen to what he [Paul] said: “It’s sown in corruption. It’s raised in incorruption. It’s sown in dishonor; it’s raised in glory. It’s sown in weakness; it’s raised in power.” You read right on over and catch his words down through. He makes it very plain to us about some things we need to consider. He let’s us know that beyond the shadow of a doubt this mortal must put on immortality. First Corinthians 15:53 says, “ This mortal must put on immortality”. But what do we have now when we come out of the grave at the



resurrection? Everyone of us is going to be an immortal, never dying soul with an immortal, never dying body. Where are we going to go from there? Matthew 25 shows us being gathered to the Judgement. Revelation 20 shows us being gathered to a final Judgement. Friend, when we go to that Judgement, we're all going to go full dressed in our new bodies. My friend, He is going to divide, the Scripture says, "the sheep from the goats". And He is going to say to the one group that lived for Him, "Come ye blessed of my Father inherit the Heavenly phase of the kingdom that is prepared for you from the foundation of the world". He is going to say to the other group, "Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire".

Go to Revelation 20:12. John said, "I saw the dead, small and great stand before God". Here is the same picture as the 25th chapter of Matthew. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works." Now get the picture. When Jesus comes again, the Bible says in First Thessalonians, He's going to bring all the souls with him. Hell is going to have to give up the spirits that are there. Death is going to give up the spirits that are held there, speaking of spiritual death. He is bringing them with Him. Every grave is going to give forth a body; an immortal body. We that are still alive when Jesus comes are going to be changed. We'll get an immortal body. We'll be taken to a final Judgement and judged according to our works right out of the books. What are the books? The Old Testament and the New Testament. Those that lived by the Old Testament, will be judged by it. We that live by the New Testament will be judged by it. The other book that was opened was the book of Life, where our names are inscribed if we have real experience. Now look at Revelation 20:13. "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."



Now we are getting to the eternal place of torment. This is the second death. To understand the second death, you must understand the first death. The first death inscribed in the Bible is a spiritual death. God told Adam and Eve, "The day you eat of that tree, you'll surely die". They lived many years and raised a family but spiritual death is separation from God. They were driven from God's presence. Isaiah 59 and other Scriptures let us know what spiritual death is. Your sins and your iniquity have separated you from you God. Just as death comes upon a member of our family and brings separation, even so sin brings spiritual death. That's the first death in the Bible. Now sin separates you from God. You're under the power of the first death. All this time, God is teaching the Gospel to you. He is telling you that He loves you. He tells you He'll forgive you. He says if you return unto me, I'll return unto you. He tells you to repent and be converted. You can get out the power of the first death. How? By the first resurrection. What is the first resurrection? When Christ raises you from a dead state in sin to a new spiritual life. You get eternal life right there. When Christ comes in, He gives you eternal life. Friend, all you have to do is put off salvation until death comes on you; when physical death comes on you that gulf, that great gulf that was between you and God is fixed for eternity. You'll come up at the Judgement, still in a lost condition. You're under the power of the first death. You spent time in Hell already. And now God says for once and for all, "Depart from me; forever". This is the second death. The first death is separation from God for time. The second death is separation from God for eternity. Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.

When we begin to realize that, sometimes it brings a question to the mind. Some might say, "If God cuts you off and you're driven from God, you couldn't live because you're cut off from God. So no one could live in the lake of fire forever". Now come on. You haven't been reading the Book much. People are saying today that nobody can be tormented in Hell forever. They say you may be tormented a little while but you would soon die because when you're cut off from God you're cut off from life and you can't live. The first thing you are doing when you make such a statement as that is taking away one of the attributes of God that He is omnipresent. What's that mean? He is everywhere. Even though God may say to men and women in that day, "Depart from Me into the lake of fire. This is the

second death. You're to forever be separated from Me". He is telling you to be separated from Him spiritually. You'll never know spiritual life. You'll never know eternal life. But even though you are separated from Him spiritually, God gives you life to live as a never dying soul. Psalm 139: 1-8 *O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.* God is not a God of the dead. He is a God of the living. Souls in Hell are living. Never dying, immortal souls in Hell are living. Then if after the resurrection, with an immortal body, you fail at the Judgement and God casts you into the lake of fire, friend, you'll live forever and ever and ever as an immortal soul with an immortal body. Forever and ever and ever.

Some may say they didn't know that God would be in Hell. That's one of the things that will make Hell the worst; to have God there. That rich man down in Hell was in tortures; torments the Scripture said. Many were the torments. One of the torments he had and one of the torments that will be in Hell is the fact that God is there. What do I mean that God is there? There is God; the One that knocked at your heart's door. Not one time but a thousand. God who stood with full deliverance loaded down with blessings that you could have enjoyed. His blessings would have planted you in an eternal Heaven where you could have enjoyed yourself forever and ever. There he stands but the door of mercy is closed.

Some of the torments in Hell tonight that men are tormented with are hearing the old time hymns sung. Oh yes! Memory will play again. The tape recordings of memory will run again. You'll hear the saints singing "Just as I am without one plea". You'll envision the sinners going down the aisle and the step you almost took but allowed old carnal self to pull you back and refuse. You'll hear every message. You'll have plenty of time to hear them over and over and over. With all the pleadings of the ministry and the pleadings of the Holy Spirit. God will be there but the door of mercy will be closed in your face. Not just for another service but forever and ever and ever. These are some of the torments of Hell.

One great reason that Time is given to us above all other reasons is to prepare for eternity. This world is not our home. Study the whole plan of God. Don't ever get the idea that God intended man to live on this earth forever but man sinned and messed it up. That's taking away from the wisdom and greatness of God. The Bible says that God sees the end from the beginning. He saw that man would sin before He ever made man. He so loved man that He made a plan of redemption for him before He ever made man. Jesus Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundations of the world. Another Scripture says before the foundations of the world, He is the Lamb slain. God set forth a plan of redemption. Look at the whole picture. God never intended for us to live here forever. God's full intention is not this physical body. It's a spiritual body to go along with the spiritual being on the inside. He merely gave us this temple of clay to live in for a time to choose where we are going to live forever. The Bible says death comes on man and he goes to his long home. He goes to his long home.

You never had any choice about where you were born the first time or who your parents were going to be. You didn't have any choice if you were born in a rich home or poor. You had no choice if you were born to educated parents or ignorant parents; good looking parents or ugly. You had no choice. You didn't have a thing to do with it. You had no choice where you were going to live or what your livelihood was going to be. The Bible tells us that you must be born again. He gives you opportunity to be born again. Thank God you can choose who your Father is. Do you want to go on and live in Hell with the devil as your father? That's a terrible thing. You can have God for your Father. You can choose where you live forever throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Above every other reason that we are here, we are here to prepare for eternity. I'll add to that, that it is foolish and dangerous to allow the things of time to so engross the attention and activity that should be devoted to the things of eternity. Now God is fair. He allows us as Christians to devote some of our time and activity to the things of time. But some of it, much of it, needs to be devoted to the things of eternity. Why? We're going to quickly leave the things of time behind one of these mornings. The things of eternity are the things we are going to put up with. We're going to enjoy or hate ourselves over forever and ever and ever.

Our text said, “He that inhabiteth eternity will also dwell with him of a humble and contrite spirit”. Isn’t it a wonderful thought that He that inhabits eternity inhabits my heart?! What does He ask? What does He ask of you to come into your life? A humble spirit, a contrite and broken attitude of spirit. He just wants you to lose that rebelliousness, that stiffness, that hardness against Him. Settle down, soften up and yield yourself in repentance. Admit “God, You’re right and I’m wrong. I’m sorry and I want You to cleanse my heart and life. Come into my life. I want to be inhabited by the One that inhabits eternity”. I pray that God will help you to get settled and fixed on the thought that the things of God are immortal and everlasting. I’ve proved that our souls are immortal. We’ve shown in the Bible that the new body we are going to get is an immortal, everlasting body. And we are going to eternity. The first stop in eternity will be the Judgement. We’re coming up to the eternal throne of God. There we are going to be judged according to our works. Not according to how we believe but according to our works. Not according to our faith but according to our works! See a lot of people are deceived. They have Church of God faith but they don’t work Church of God faith. We’re going to be judged according to our works. From there the next step is to our eternal home: a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness or the lake of fire that burneth forever and ever and ever where the worm never dies and the fire is not quenched. (Concluded)