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1) *What* is Eternity?

- a) It is what has always been and what will always be
- b) The absence of time as we know it
- c) A condition of endlessness which we inhabit after leaving this body
  - i) not soul sleep (Luke 16:24)
  - ii) not eradication or annihilation (Mark 9:44,46,48)
- d) Where will we be?
  - i) In a hell that is real and to be avoided, warned about by Christ (Mark 9:45,47)
  - ii) Or in a Heaven is real, and promised to believers John 14:1-4

2) *How* do we enter eternity?

- a) We die
  - i) EVERYONE does (exceptions known: Enoch and Elijah in Old Testament)
  - ii) Death is possible from the moment we are born. Our bodies start to die, and it is always imminent.
  - iii) Death is unpredictable. We cannot know when
  - iv) We enter eternity to one place or the other and stay there (Heb. 9:27, Luke 16: 22-23, Luke 23:43)
  - v) There are no intermediate conditions, states, or place
  - vi) Our destination is determined by our decision about Christ I John 5:12
  - vii) That choice is unchangeable after we die Luke 16:26,2 Sam. 12:23, Job 21:30-32
- b) We are caught up at Christ's return
  - i) Only believers in Christ will be caught up, and only those alive when He returns will be directly changed (I Cor. 15:51-52) , those dead in Christ will have their bodies resurrected and recreated

3) *Who* is in eternity?

- a) God (Is. 57:15, James 1:17)
  - (1) God the Father, as He has always been, and always will be, a Spirit being and personality
  - (2) God the Son, in His eternal body
  - (3) God the Holy Spirit, as always.
- b) Holy created angels, in all their types and functions (cherubim and seraphim, for example)
- c) Satan, the angel created as Lucifer who rebelled, sinned and fell, a "liar and the father of it" (John 8:44)
- d) Fallen created angels, who became the demons (devils) they are now (Rev. 12:4, Mark 1:34)
- e) Some devils are already there (Jude 1:6) and some roam the earth
- f) ALL will be cast into the final version of hell, the lake of fire someday (Rev. 19:20; 20:10: 20:14-15)
- g) Every human being, after each person's death, will inhabit eternity as immortal souls
  - i) The saved to be with God in everlasting conscious blessing and life, in all the blessedness of the presence of God in Heaven as it now is, and the final state of heaven as well (Rev. 21:1)
  - ii) The unsaved in everlasting conscious torment, away from God, in conscious torment in hell now
  - iii) Joined in the lake of fire by Satan and all his devils after the final judgment that we call the "Great White Throne" (Rev. 20:15)

4) Death, our entry into eternity is feared

- 47 a) Unknown—we can't see what is there. This is cleared up by *Word* of God.  
48 b) Uncertain—most don't know to what they are headed. This is cleared up by *faith* in God.  
49 c) Painful—death is unnatural, resisted, pain often painful. This is cleared up by the *grace* of God.  
50 d) No one wants pain and suffering  
51 i) These are offset by the promise of God for His grace, presence, and assurance  
52 ii) He attends the believer all along the way, and assures his entry into Heaven Ps. 116:15, Ps.  
53 33:18-19

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55 *What have you done to prepare for it?*

- 56  
57 1. Trust Christ= eternal life with Him, blessing, fellowship, joy John 14:1-6  
58 2. Do not trust Christ= eternal doom, damnation with devils, depravity, death, darkness and  
59 suffering  
60 a. Never to know God John 3:36.  
61 b. Cor. 4:4—the lost are blinded to the Gospel  
62 c. John 8:44, Col. 1:13, the lost are doomed to the devil's kingdom  
63

64 Luke 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a **great gulf fixed**: so that they which would  
65 pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

66 Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be **wailing and gnashing of teeth**.

67 Revelation 20:10 And the **devil** that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where  
68 the **beast** and the **false prophet** are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

69  
70 Luke 16:23 And **in hell he lift up his eyes**, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in  
71 his bosom.

72 Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may  
73 dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; **for I am tormented in this flame**.

74 Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and  
75 likewise Lazarus evil things: **but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented**.

76 See also Rev. 13:8, Rev. 17:8, Rev. 20:15

77 Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose **names are not written in the**  
78 **book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**.

79 Revelation 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit,  
80 and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, **whose names**  
81 **were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world**, when they behold the beast that  
82 was, and is not, and yet is.

83 Revelation 20:15 And whosoever **was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of**  
84 **fire**.