

# EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF MORE

Answering the Ache for Life to be More

## Eternity

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil — this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.” **ECCLESIASTES 3:11-14**

“The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”  
**JOHN 12:25**

Then Jesus cried out, “When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

**JOHN 12:44-50**

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”  
**1 JOHN 5:11**

*“Eternity”*

Paul says with regard to the uncertainty and confusion we face about the question of eternity that “if only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men” (1 Cor 15:19). If it is only for this life that we are reaching for more then we are aiming too low, we have set the circle of our lives too small. The ultimate end of Jesus’ saving work for us is to connect us to “the fullness of life” which is eternal (Jn 10:10), unlimited by time and liberated from “the bondage to decay” we experience in this world (Rom 8:20-21). The inclusion of the idea/hope/promise of eternal life in our expanding circle of more means that we set the ultimate outcome of our lives higher/farther than we ever would by the circumstances of the present or the limitations of right now. Throwing the circle of our concerns, involvements and expectations in life toward eternity will result in:

1. greater personal hope
2. greater personal peace
3. greater personal courage