

THE FATHER OF ETERNITY

Introduction

1. The other day I was asked if I might consider doing a study on the Trinity. My answer, somewhat, but not entirely in jest, was that I preferred to teach on a subject that I at least know something about! As we begin to study the Bible, we may understand the surface truth, but we will find a whole lot more when we dig a little deeper. It seems that as we uncover each layer of truth, the next is more compelling and more amazing than the last!
2. For the past couple of weeks, we have been considering the truth about Jesus by examining the names given to Him, as recorded by the prophet Isaiah. Jesus is the **wonderful counselor**. He takes care of the **dullness** of life and brings **direction** to the **decisions** of life. Jesus is the **mighty God**; He takes care of the **demands** of life. Whatever demands we are facing, He is the mighty God! Knowing that and living in light of that makes all the difference in relation to handling these demands. Today we consider the truth that Jesus is the “**everlasting Father**.”
3. Such a title appears to create for us a dilemma. Although it is impossible to separate the Trinity – for God is One – there are three distinct persons in this Triune God and each person has a particular role and specific responsibilities that ought not to be confused. For example, the Holy Spirit did not become incarnate. The Father did not die on the cross. These were actions that were done by the Lord Jesus. The Son became incarnate. The Father sent the Son. The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit after the Son ascended into heaven. In spite of the fact that Jesus said, “if you have seen me, you have seen the Father”, and “I and the Father are one”, Jesus is not the Father and the Father is not Jesus. The persons of the Godhead are distinct. Having said that, how then can the Son be referred to as the “Everlasting Father?”
4. What was the prophet Isaiah trying to tell us about this child to be born, this Son to be given by using this name? What does “Everlasting Father” mean? That is the challenge before us this morning.
5. In a sentence, here is where we are going with this today. **Jesus is the Father of Eternity, so if you want anything eternal, you must get it from Him!**

I. HE IS ETERNAL

A. God has no beginning and no end, and Jesus is God. (We established that last week. He is the mighty God)!

1. The first words of the Bible declare the eternality of God – “In the beginning, God...” When there was nothing and everything was about to be brought into existence, God was present. There was never a time when God was not.
2. The Apostle John picks up the same phrase, “In the beginning”, and makes application to Jesus, the Son. He wrote, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” He continued, “The Word became flesh...” That Word was Jesus Christ! If God is eternal, having no beginning and no end, and Jesus is God, then Jesus is eternal!
3. And since God is the originator of everything, He is also the originator of eternity.

B. Jesus claimed existence before He was born, declaring His eternality

1. We have already considered what John said in his Gospel about Jesus and the beginning. Jesus made clear this truth by declaring not that He was born to Mary in Bethlehem, but that the Father had sent Him to earth from heaven! Though He was born, He was sent from heaven to earth. (By the way, that is one of the reasons why the virgin birth was necessary. A normal conception would have resulted in a new entity, making Jesus two distinct persons in one body! His body was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and He, who already existed, entered that body – one person in one body, though He was the God-man – both fully human and divine. That could only happen with a virgin birth)!
2. Jesus made specific reference to His pre-incarnate existence. “Before Abraham was, I am” is an important declaration. Jesus referred to Moses’ OT writings declaring that Moses was writing of Him. While that certainly was a reference to prophecy, it very likely also included specific appearances of the pre-incarnate Jesus. The point is that Jesus is eternal and the father of all that is eternal. That is where we start.

II. HE IS THE REVELATION OF ETERNITY

A. How the Son can be the Father

1. This is not a confusion of the persons of the Trinity or a convoluted way of talking about Jesus (Remember the poem, “I am my own grandpa?”). It is nothing like

that!

2. "Father", to the Jews, meant "originator" or "author." It is not unusual for us to use the word similarly. (As an example, Jesus called Satan, "the father of lies." He was the originator of lies. All lies and liars find their origin in Satan). Jesus, as the Everlasting Father is the originator of everything that is eternal. He fathered eternity!

B. How eternity could be revealed to the finite

1. Let's start by talking about us. We had a beginning. Before 1952 I did not exist. I was conceived and several months later made my entrance into this world. I am a finite creature because I have a point of origin. I did not exist and then I came into existence. There was a beginning for me.
2. However, I do not have an end. In other words I, along with every other human being that has ever lived, will continue an existence forever. That existence may be eternal bliss or it may be the terror of never ending torment and darkness, but there will be no annihilation – none will cease to exist.
3. God made man to live forever with the promise of eternal fellowship with Him provided man would honor God in obedience and worship. Man failed, so God brought death – not a cessation of existence – but death to the body and ultimate judgment to the soul, which would result in a permanent separation from Him. Again, this was not a cessation of existence, but, that which results, could hardly be called life. (The Bible even tags it as "the second death").
4. There was, however, a plan in place all along to undo the damage man had done, and to restore this eternal relationship between man and God. Here is a very important point – Jesus as the Father of eternity...

III. HE CAN MAKE US FIT FOR ETERNITY (*When Jesus Christ was born at Bethlehem, time and eternity met in a person. At Calvary, time and eternity met in a price. That sacrifice... met the demands of God's holy Law and (provided) the way for sinners to be forgiven and to share in eternity.*)

A. Time and eternity met in a person

1. The eternal God becomes human flesh – perhaps John said it best when he wrote, ***That which was from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and***

proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us (Jesus was from the beginning and He is declared to be forever “eternal life.” This same Jesus can give to us what He is in essence – eternal life!)

2. The eternal was indicated in various ways throughout the ages, but perfectly and clearly made known through the originator of eternity – the Lord Jesus Himself! Perhaps this paragraph will help us: *His words are words of eternal life. His deeds had in them the quality of eternity. He spoke as no man ever spoke, and he lived as no man ever lived. His values were vastly different from those of other religious leaders, and because of this he clashed with the established religious system. Jesus looked at people through the eyes of the eternal and never permitted himself to be shackled by the passing opinions of time. The publicans and sinners were not outcasts to him; they were lost sheep needing the care of a shepherd. He was not impressed with the stones of the Temple, for he was building a temple that would last forever. When he looked at the lily or saw a sparrow fall, he thought of the eternal Father in heaven. Everything Jesus talked about or touched took on a new dimension because he is the “Father of Eternity” (Wiersbe, His Name Is Wonderful, p. 75).*
3. That union of time and eternity became permanent if for no other reason than to demonstrate that eternity can dwell in human flesh!

B. Time and eternity met in a price

1. Everything that partakes of sin is subject to death and death is the antithesis of eternal life! Until sin can be dealt with, we cannot move in the dimension of the eternal.
2. That was the reason for time and eternity meeting in the person of the Lord Jesus at the cross. The eternal broke into time. “But when the fullness of time had come God sent forth his Son...” (Galatians 4:4). Throughout Jesus ministry we read, “His time had not yet come.” But in John 12 Jesus said to His disciples, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” Jesus broke into time and He is the great controller of time and He is the great conqueror of time. Time is no longer an enemy. Time’s ultimate weapon is death, but the controller of time has conquered death and removed its sting!

C. Time and eternity met in a purpose

1. God made us for eternity and set eternity in our hearts, at least in some measure to make us dissatisfied with life on the surface and to make us desire that which is essential and eternal. Perhaps that is why men seem to search for the missing dimension of life. Almost all of man's advances in every discipline have been motivated by a quest for the eternal.
2. We cannot be truly happy and satisfied until we are sharing in the eternal, and we cannot share in the eternal until we seek it from the one who originated eternity. And He desires to share eternity with us!

Conclusion

1. As many have observed, when we were young, change was a treat. As we get older, it is a threat. But if we belong to Jesus, the father of eternity, neither change nor decay can alter the eternal. No wonder Paul wrote, ***For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*** When we are part of eternity, the breakdown of the material only hastens the perfecting of the eternal!
2. Once again, time's ultimate weapon is death, but death cannot touch the eternal. Man has figured out some ways to slow down the process, but he can't defeat death. Only Jesus is "the resurrection and the life."
3. True, we live in time, but we are to live for eternity. I like this from Warren Wiersbe: *He is able to conquer time because he is the eternal "I Am." He is the "Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 21:6). He is timeless and spaceless; he dwells in eternity. Because his is above time, he is able to conquer and control time. Because he entered into time, he is able to bring eternity into our little lives and move us into a vast new dimension of experience. "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:17). Time flows from the future (tomorrow) into the present (today) into the past (yesterday). Only God lives in the future; man comes out of the past. The present, then, is the meeting of the future and the past, and that meeting can be either triumph or tragedy. When Jesus Christ is in control of your life, each movement is an eternal experience because he gives to you a quality of life that comes out of eternity. "Eternal life" means much more than living forever. "Eternal life"*

means "the life of eternity." It is an experience in Christ here and now! Jesus Christ made us for eternity. To reject him is to miss the very purpose for which we were created. He came to earth to reveal eternity, and then died to give us eternal life. He lives to make eternity a real experience for us day by day, as he controls and conquers time. But there is a final ministry that he performs as "The Father of Eternity." One day he will return to take us to a glorious eternal home.

4. Now let's return to where we started. **Jesus is the Father of Eternity, so if you want anything eternal, you must get it from Him!** All of our lives are to be an investment in eternity. God created us and redeemed us to participate in His eternal plan. As we obey God's Word, our lives take on the quality of the eternal. True, we live in time, but we must live for eternity. So you can waste your life living merely for time or you can spend your life preoccupied with time or you can invest your life for eternity. Everything eternal comes from the Father of eternity. You can't get it anywhere else.
5. We need the dimension of the eternal and that can only be found in the Father of Eternity. May we find that in Him today!