**Eternity**

**God has planted eternity in the human heart,**

**yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.**

**(Ecclesiastes 3:11)**

**Love never ends.**

***(1 Corinthians 13:8)***

**Jesus challenges us to consider a new concept: We must stop thinking of life as a journey between two points on an endless highway. It is this subconscious feeling that leads to hurry and rush and tension. Life is eternal, and we are alive in eternity now. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 132)***

**Dolly tells her brother: “If somebody dies in the hospital, angels move them to the eternity ward.”*(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Baseball is the only one of our major team sports that has no time limitation. Football, basketball, hockey – even rugby and soccer and polo – have their fixed terminations. But a baseball game, in theory, could go on forever. In a society bedeviled by deadlines – by airline schedules that must be met, by eight-hour shifts and 30-minute lunch breaks, by 60-second commercials – baseball offers a measure of surcease. The pitcher is unhurried, he paws the mound, rubs the ball, hitches his pants, adjusts his cap, spits three times, examines the sky, the infield, the outfield and the opposing hitter. Then he asks the umpire for a fresh ball and massages that one for a while. Sometimes, with first base empty, we get the intentional walk. The batter might more expeditiously be waved to first base, but no: four careful pitchouts are required. It was a blow to the gamed when reformers provided golf carts to speed a reliever in from the bullpen. The long slow amble was better. *(James J. Kilpatrick)***

**Eternity: the first 60 seconds of a blind date. (Debbie Jones, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Eternal life is a current event. *(The Greater Joining)***

**My son’s fifth-grade teacher asked him to define eternity. “That’s when you’re at a restaurant with your parents,” he said, “and the waitress asks if they want more coffee.” *(Betty Plumb, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Good week for: Eternal devotion, after archaeologists in Leicestershire, England, uncovered a pair of skeletons in a church graveyard that were still holding hands after nearly 700 years in the ground. *(The Week magazine, October 3, 2014)***

**These Things Shall Never Die: The pure, the bright, the beautiful, that stirred our hearts in youth, the impulses to wordless prayer, the dreams of love and truth; the longing after somethings lost, the spirit's yearning cry, the striving after better hopes -- These things can never die. The timid hand stretched forth to aid a brother in his need, a kindly word in grief's dark hour that proves a friend indeed: The plea for mercy softly breathed, when justice threatens nigh, the sorrow of a contrite heart -- These things shall never die. Let nothing pass for every hand must find some work to do; lose not a chance to waken love -- be firm, and just, and true: So shall a light that cannot fade beam on thee from on high. And angel voices say to thee -- These things shall never die. *(Charles Dickens)***

**People can say what they like about the eternal verities, love and truth and so on, but nothing's as eternal as the dishes. (*Margaret Mahy, children's author)***

**A woman called her doctor at home, and his little boy answered the telephone. “Is the doctor there?” the woman asked. “No, he isn’t,” said the child. “When will he be back?” she inquired. “I don’t know,” the boy said. “He’s out on an eternity case.” *(James Dent, in Charleston, W. Va., Gazette)***

**The excellent is new forever. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**Eternal life is but an Extension Course following the school of this life. *(Dr. Ralph W. Sockman)***

**Every situation -- nay, every moment -- is infinite worth; for it is the representative of a whole eternity. *(Goethe)***

**Clemson University economist Bruce Yandle collects graffiti for this own enjoyment and for use in his lectures. When Yandle is in the doldrums, his spirits are lifted by one of the first pieces of graffiti he collected. Beneath the question "Where will you spend eternity?" someone had answered, "The way things look now, in German 201." *(News From Clemson University, in Reader's Digest)***

**Barber: “Did you hear that Pete Miller passed away?” Crankshaft: “No.” Barber: “I'm afraid so. In fact, he'd just gotten a haircut here, and then had a heart attack walking home!” Crankshaft: “I guess he sort of went from hair to eternity!” *(Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

**Love is perhaps the only glimpse we are permitted of eternity. *(Helen Hayes)***

**I know we’re headed for eternity, but what if I don’t like it there? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**How long is forever? Nobody really knows -- but many things supposed to last forever are already vanishing. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart. *(Victor Hugo)***

**Eternity is a humble thought. I mean, where's it going to end? *(Tom Stoppard, playwright)***

**Eternity Is . . . keeping a smile on your face till the shutter clicks. . . . waiting for the tow truck to show up. . . . listening for the sound of a key in the lock at 2 a.m. . . . trying to find a six-cent error in your bank balance. . . . 20 minutes of aerobic exercises. . . . not peeking till the popovers are done. . . . awaiting the result of a pregnancy test. . . . listening to a six-year-old relate the plot of this neat movie. . . . looking for a freeway exit when you're headed in the wrong direction. . . . housebreaking a new puppy. . . . the second hour of Monopoly. . . . waiting for the light to turn green when you've spotted an empty parking space across the intersection. *(Jane Goodsell, Press Associates)***

**Nothing is so fatiguing as the eternal hanging on of an uncompleted task. *(William James)***

**Jesus referred to the pre-existence of the soul when He said, “Before Abraham was, I am.” (St. John 8:58). If we can get the picture of life as an unbroken circle, with the earthly experience as merely one segment of that circle, we can start to see the unending aspect of us all. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 355)***

**What happens after death is so unspeakably glorious that our imagination and our feelings do not suffice to form even an approximate conception of it. The dissolution of our time-bound form in eternity brings no loss of meaning. *(Carl G. Jung, in Letters)***

**All that is not eternal is eternally out of date. (*C. S. Lewis, English author)***

**When you fully comprehend that there is more to life than just here and now,**

**and you realize that life is just preparation for eternity, you will begin to live differently. *(Rick Warren, in The Purpose Driven Life)***

**To live in the present is to live in eternity. *(Wittgenstein)***

**Man to loan-company official: "Thanks for the money. I shall be eternally in your debt." *(Ed Reed. Register and Tribune Syndicate)***

**Look out eternity! Here I come! *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**In a Religious News Service release: "Eternity Magazine will cease publishing with the January issue." *(Reader's Digest)***

**Grimm: “So this is a mummy exhibit. It says the special wrapping was meant to preserve the insides for eternity. Just like a 7-Eleven burrito.” *(Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)***

**Bad week for: The rains down in Africa, after music artist Max Siedentopf set up six speakers attached to a solar-powered MP3 player in the Namib Desert to play "Africa," the 1982 Toto hit, "for all eternity." Siedentopf said he "wanted to pay the song the ultimate homage." *(The Week magazine, January 25, 2019)***

**Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever. *(Napoleon Bonaparte)***

**Ancient Egyptians would place their right hands on onions when swearing an oath. Its round shape symbolized eternity. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 191)***

**The price of justice is eternal publicity. *(Arnold Bennett)***

**The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program. *(Ronald Reagan)***

**Of all the forces that transform rock, none is more persistent or powerful than ocean waves. Over the course of geologic time, they have reduced many rocky shores to sandy beaches. Yet a stalemate is eventually attained between land and sea, because sand grains are virtually indestructible. Once reduced to a certain size, they hold water by capillary action, acting as a cushion. *(Richard Bode, in Reader's Digest)***

**A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. (Henry Brooks Adams, historian)**

**Eternity’s a terrible thought. I mean, where’s it all going to end? (Tom Stoppard, in The Times (U.K.)**

**Mother Goose: “Grimm, do you ever think about eternity?” Grimm: “Only when Mom watches the Weather Channel.” (Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)**

**As if we could kill time without injuring eternity! *(Henry David Thoreau)***

**Time is the image of eternity. (Diogenes Laertius)**

**There's a great urge to live on after you're dead. That's why we have children, partly, because we don't want the story to end with a whimpering full stop. (Martin Amis)**

**Eternity is a horrible thought. I mean, where's it going to end? (Tom Stoppard, playwright)**

**We all sometimes get tired of living. That's why eternity was invented. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Snatching the eternal out of the desperately fleeting is the great magic trick of human existence. *(Tennessee Williams, in New York Times)***

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