

# Eternal Perspective

Colossians 3:1-4

## Intro

Freelance writer Greta Christina, published often in feminist and adult magazines, is brutally honest regarding her dilemma about dying. As an atheist, she realizes she has a problem with facing death and disbelieving in an afterlife. Writing in a magazine popular with skeptics called the Skeptical Inquirer; she admits that life is meaningless as an atheist:

Here's what she says, "Death can be an appalling thing to think about. Not just frightening, not just painful. It can be paralyzing. The fact that your life span is an infinitesimally tiny fragment in the life of the universe, that there is, at the very least, a strong possibility that when you die, you disappear completely and forever, and that in 500 years nobody will remember you... It can make everything you do, and anything anyone else does, seem meaningless, trivial to the point of absurdity. It can make you feel erased, wipe out joy, make your life seem like ashes in your hands."

That's a sad commentary on life. Atheism is a fatalistic worldview with no hope and life after death. There are many people who think like her and who face life with despair and meaninglessness. There are many people who think like her and who face life with despair and meaninglessness. That is depressing! Nothing to look forward to.

This is a common worldview in our society. Many live just for the weekend to party and get high on substance abuse and lust. Some get so busy with life not wanting to think about the future. Others who are so preoccupied with amassing wealth and materialism that they have no time to think about the end of their life. And there are those who are numb and don't take life seriously until some tragedy or life threatening disease hits them and then they are faced with their mortality. It's like these people are spiritual zombies - living but dead.

I believe the god of this world blinds and desensitizes people not to think about their mortality and eternity.

## Why Think of Eternity?

First, because it matters. It matters more than anything else. It gives us hope.

Second, because if one does not rightly regard eternity, one will never understand the deeper issues of this life.

Thirdly God placed eternity in heart of humanity. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

## Illustration of a 100 foot rope

-This 100 foot white rope represents my time line and eternity.

- You will notice that it has a red mark that is 9 centimeters long (About 3 and half inches).

-That red mark represents my life here on earth. Actually 9 centimeters is 90 millimetres - one milometer for every year of my earthly life.

- When you observe the 9 centimetre red tape on this 100 foot rope (30.48 meters) it is almost insignificant compared to the rest of the white rope.

-Imagine this rope goes on forever, a timeline of your existence. The red part is only, let's say, 91 years of your life on earth.

-People are consumed only about the red part. I'm going to work hard and save as much as I can to enjoy this part right here. This is only a tiny little 9 centimeters (3 and half inches) of life here on earth.

-Scripture teaches what I do with this little part will determine what I do for billions and billions of eons.

-This little red part is only one chance, one chance on this life on earth to get it right for the rest of eternity. And it can end any moment, then comes eternity.

- I'm not going to be foolish - I'm going to get my life right with God. Some look at my decision and say, "Oh, you're so dumb because your decision is going to effect this tiny moment in your life." And I say, "No you're dumb because it's going to affect all of this, eternity."

-It's crazy. Most people are looking only at the red part and not looking at eternity which is billions and billions of eons.

### **Don't live in the past**

-The world continues to have us always focus on our past.

- You keep looking at your past you are going to get depressed at times, especially the disappointments, failures, sins, etc.

-Isaiah 43:18-19, "*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. <sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing!*"

-Philippians 3:13-14, "*Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*"

### **Reward or Regret**

- Everything I do will either bring reward or regret.

-The things you wasted your money and resources on.

-The time you wasted. 10,000 movies; hours upon hours sitting in front of the computer or TV screen or the cell phone.

### **Set Your Focus on Eternity**

Colossians 3:1-4, "*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*"

2 Cor. 4:18, "*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*"

Think about the things in your life:

- What will last forever?
- What will last at least for your lifetime?
- What will last a few short years, months, or days?

Based on eternal value, what things are most important in your life? Where — and with whom — should you put most of your time and energy?

By reorganizing your life around eternal priorities, you'll find yourself growing in contentment as you live according to God's design and purpose.

### **Focus On Things with Eternal Value**

I once saw a wall plaque which said: "*Only one life will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.*"

Jesus said, "*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.* <sup>20</sup> *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.* <sup>21</sup> *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matt. 6:19-21).

You were made for eternity.

Heaven is waiting for you.