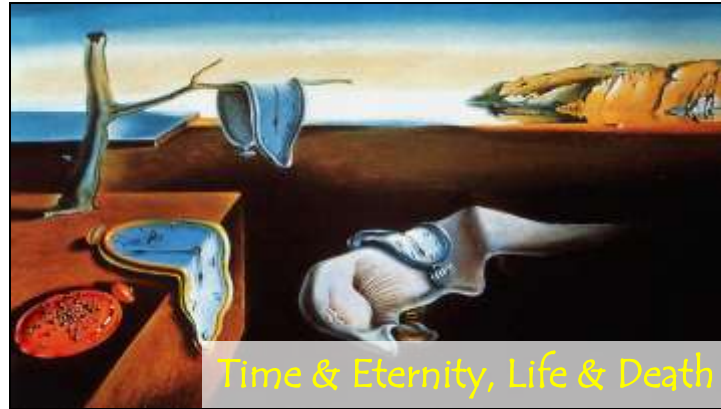


Slide 1



I'm not sure what Salvador Dali had in mind when he painted this landscape titled *The Persistence of Memory* in 1931 but for me time is certainly a part of it. But time seems to be melting away. The bleak landscape projects death.

These paired sets of ideas are two different dimensions of human existence. They apply to man individually and collectively. The Bible has much to say about these things. We will examine a few verses. Bible verses are in white letters on a black background.

1. Time & Eternity

- Praise, oh let them praise the name of GOD— he spoke the word, and there they were! He set them in place from all time to eternity; He gave his orders, and that's it!
(Psalms 148:5-6)

The Psalmist provides a good starting point. Give praise to whom praise is due...then listen to what he says. Three very important points are contained in this brief passage. Consider them one at a time...start with the idea of praise.


*Confessions**

- “Nevertheless, to praise you is the desire of man, a little piece of your creation. You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

*Book by St. Augustine

Also recommended, *Confessions of a Twentieth Century Pilgrim*, by Malcolm Muggeridge in our church library.

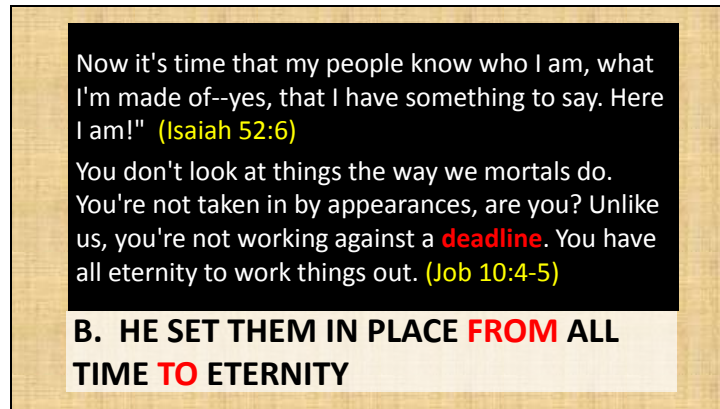
A more modern and highly recommended book by Malcolm Muggeridge titled, *Confessions of a Twentieth Century Pilgrim* is available from our church library.

<p>God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female.</p> <p>(Gen 1:26-27)</p>	
<p>A. GOD—HE SPOKE THE WORD, AND THERE THEY WERE</p>	

We can easily get sidetracked here on fine points and opinions which are not essential. The essential point is simple. GOD DID IT! The rest is just details. Don't get sucked into wasting time and energy there. God has more important tasks for us to do.

Nature and Responsibility

- Reflecting God's nature
- Responsible to care for other creatures
- What makes man different from the other creatures? A point worth thinking about.
- More similarities than differences. Too often we behave like the beasts of the field.



NOTE: it is FROM all time...TO eternity. We have individual beginnings somewhere in time but all have an eternal destination. The mortal takes on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:53.

The creator desires communication with a people who wish to know him, to know he has something to say. He is not playing hide and seek with us even though we often try to hide from him

Do we realize we are working against a deadline. What would happen if we really believed there was a deadline to work things out and that there are eternal implications? That question was answered recently by 33 Chilean miners trapped deep under the ground by a cave-in. Suddenly their deadline appeared a lot closer than they had expected.



Quoted from Internet. "I've caught glimpses of the rescue attempts for the miners in Chile, and I've prayed for God to work in this situation. The other day I heard comments on the TV from one of the rescued miners that seemed to allude to a changed heart and a changed faith that occurred while he was deep underground. I wondered exactly what his comment might mean and hoped that he was speaking about a spiritual change.

My brother, who is a member of the Gideons, (*the group mostly known for actively passing out New Testaments to motels, schools, military, etc.*) sent this forwarded photo and note this evening via email.... I had to smile and thank God for His obvious hand of hope shown in so many ways during this would-be tragedy! I wanted to share because I thought you would be encouraged too."

"Just a fun fact. One of the 33 miners had a Gideon testament with him and was holding Bible studies.

Talk about a captive audience!"

Isaiah 55:11 says, "My Word which goes forth from My mouth will not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the manner for which I sent it."

Time is temporary; Eternity is forever

- But when the Day of God's Judgment does come, it will be unannounced, like a thief. The sky will collapse with a thunderous bang, everything disintegrating in a huge conflagration, earth and all its works exposed to the scrutiny of Judgment. Since everything here today might well be gone tomorrow, do you see how essential it is to live a holy life? Daily expect the Day of God, eager for its arrival. The galaxies will burn up and the elements melt down that day-- but we'll hardly notice. We'll be looking the other way, ready for the promised new heavens and the promised new earth, all landscaped with righteousness. (2Peter 3:10-13)

Here we see through the eyes of Peter a startling piece of information about the tenuous nature of the temporal realm that we so wrongly assume is indestructible. Just as time began when God spoke it into existence, so too will it end when he pronounces his final words of judgment. The new realm will be something totally different, populated by those who are clothed in his righteousness.

The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally. Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:17-20)

C. HE GAVE HIS ORDERS, AND THAT'S IT!

Go, Train them, mark them, instruct them, Go, etc. How do we get his orders?

How does God communicate to us?

People	Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patriarchs• Prophets• Jesus Christ• Apostles• Pastors• Holy Spirit• Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation• History• Natural processes• Miracles• Prophecy• Visions and dreams

Can you think of anything else to add?

Communication to God

- One day he was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, "Master, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1)
- Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. (Romans 8:26)

- In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. (Ephesians 6:18)
- The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. (1Timothy 2:1)
- If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. (James 1:5)

Two weeks ago Cory Lemke shared in our Personal Evangelism Training seminar that we should pray intentionally. Be specific. Write down names of people who need to reach a saving knowledge of the savior. Pray for those who are struggling with their faith. Pray for our leaders for protection from the enemy. Don't give short shrift to the spiritual needs all around us. Our eyes should be set on God's Eternal Kingdom more than comfort in our temporal existence.

Prayer is a sign of faith in God

- It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.
(Hebrews 11:6)



Prayer is a sign of faith.

*Experiencing God**

- When you see God already at work...that is His invitation to join in.
- Impossible you say, you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Proceed on faith. He will equip you to meet the needs of the task.
- Then you will have the experience of **God's power** in your life. It wasn't impossible with God.
- How does faith grow? Through use. If you limit God by only doing what you already know you can do, faith will not grow.

* Book by William Blackaby

Communication is essential in any relationship but experiencing it is even better. Blackaby has offered some good ideas about this idea.



People? What kind of people? Do we see what God sees? Do we see Him at work?

People need Jesus. Some know it already. Some do not.

They have needs, fears, dreams, hope for their future. Can we help? Will we?

Jesus said to another, "Follow me." He said, "Certainly, but first excuse me for a couple of days, please. I have to make arrangements for my father's funeral." Jesus refused. "First things first. Your business is life, not death. And life is urgent: Announce God's kingdom!"
(Luke 9:59-60)

2. LIFE & DEATH

What excuses have you used to avoid the bidding of the master to "Follow me." Too busy? Too old? Not my gift? Can't afford it? Don't know what to say? I have a complete arsenal of them but they are all basically excuses, not reasons. Let me ask, Is it better to reach your personal deadline while following Him or resting in the comfort of your personal set of excuses? Recall the words of the missionary Jim Elliot, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Easier said than done? He did it. Will I?

Those who refuse to know God and refuse to obey the Message will pay for what they've done. Eternal exile from the presence of the Master and his splendid power is their sentence. But on that very same day when he comes, he will be exalted by his followers and celebrated by all who believe--and all because you believed what we told you. Because we know that this extraordinary day is just ahead, we pray for you all the time--pray that our God will make you fit for what he's called you to be, pray that he'll fill your good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy so that it all amounts to something. If your life honors the name of Jesus, he will honor you. Grace is behind and through all of this, our God giving himself freely, the Master, Jesus Christ, giving himself freely. (2Thessalonians 1:8-12)

Have you thought about what is going on just now in the middle east in terms of what the Bible tells us about that day? Many will say this is nothing new. It is a warning for those who know the signs... be prepared? What would the wise person do?

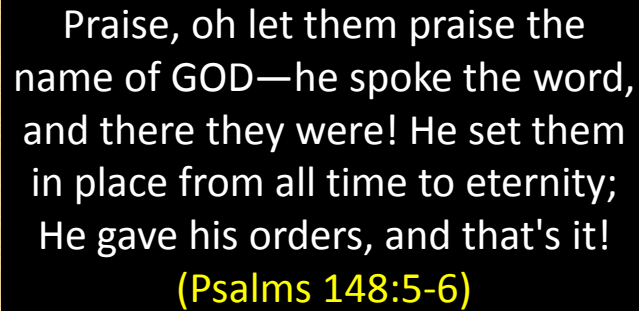
What does it take...

- ... For us to pray intentionally and specifically for those who like brother Williamson face opposition to sharing the word?
- ... For us who know the Savior to pray specifically for those who do not yet know Him?
- ... For one who has the words of life to share them with those facing certain death?

WWJD

- But the witness that really confirms me far exceeds John's witness. It's the work the Father gave me to complete. These very tasks, as I go about completing them, confirm that the Father, in fact, sent me. (John 5:36)
- "You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want. (John 5:39-40)

It's all about a relationship with Jesus. A partnership in carrying on his work in the world. Here he criticizes the Pharisees for so legalistically observing every detail of the scriptures but missing entirely this point. Modern followers of God are not immune to the same disease, more interested in the words of life than living them. What good is it to have the truth if you don't use it?



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name of GOD—he spoke the word,
and there they were! He set them
in place from all time to eternity;
He gave his orders, and that's it!
(Psalms 148:5-6)

And that's it! Plenty here to keep us scratching our heads and thinking hard. These are some essential ideas but there is still more to learn.

If you are wondering how to get started on the Jesus trail we can help. The first step is to decide if you agree with the words we repeat before sharing in communion. Are you willing to say so publically and then “sign the pledge of baptism?” Let me encourage you to become part of the family of God and join with us in doing the will of the master with no reservations. If this is your desire let me know before you leave today.

Confession

I believe that Jesus is
the Christ, the Son of
the living God.

I trust Him as my
Lord and Savior.



