

# Forever – Why You Can't Live Without It.

By Paul David Tripp

## **Chapter 2 The Pack-It-All-In Mentality**

Preparatory Thoughts: Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

- 1) From verse 1, what do we know that we have, if this tent (our earthly home) is destroyed?
- 2) From verse 2, Why do we groan now?
- 3) From verse 5, Who is at work in us preparing us for eternity?

1. Are you tempted to feel “as though life has passed you by”, or that somehow you are going to “miss out” on life’s opportunities? How is this a symptom of “eternity amnesia”?

2. From the following quote from page 36, which of the 3 applications/truths stand out most to you? Why?

*“One of the good things the Bible keeps in front of us is that this is not all there is. ... [1] You know you don’t actually just go around once, so you don’t expend all of your life energies trying to do with gusto all you can now. ... [2] You understand that this life is but a brief preparation for the forever that is to come and that the messiness and hardship of the here and now are not an interruption of the plan, but a part of the plan. ... [3] The one who is in charge has chosen to keep you in a world that is less than perfect, not because he has forgotten what you need, but precisely because he loves you and is delivering to you exactly what you need.”*

3. On page 37 he says, “When we live knowing that the God of grace will lift us out of this broken world and is now readying us for the world to come, we can face difficulty without wanting to give up and experience pleasure without becoming addicted to it.”

- a. Think of a difficulty you are currently facing or have faced in the past, how does a preparation mentality (as opposed to a destination mentality) help to keep you from “wanting to give up” in the face of this particular difficulty?
- b. Think of a pleasure you really enjoy. How does a preparation mentality (as opposed to a destination mentality) help keep you from becoming addicted to that pleasure?

## **Chapter 3 The Bad News You Can't Escape**

Preparatory Thoughts, Read Psalm 73

- 1) From verses 1-5, why was the Psalmist envious of the arrogant?
- 2) In light of this, what conclusion did he draw about his own righteous behavior? (vs 13-16)
- 3) What 2 things helped him see things correctly? (vs. 17)
- 4) Now, how does he evaluate those thoughts he had in vs 1-16? (vs. 21-22)
- 5) And what does he conclude about life? (vs. 25-6)
- 6) And what does he conclude about the lives of those he envied in vs 1-5? (vs. 27)
- 7) And what 3 things does he resolve to do in light of this knowledge? (vs. 28)

1. From page 48 fill out the following:

- a. Instead of living for ourselves, we now live for \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Instead of living every day in hot pursuit of our private definition of pleasure, we are motivated by \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Instead of seeking the control over people and circumstances we live for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

2. From this chapter, what is the reason for death in this world?

3. From this chapter, what lessons can we learn as we contemplate death?

## **Chapter 4 The Dark Side of Forever**

### Preparatory Thoughts

Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

1. How is the teaching of a final judgement a comfort to us? (p. 58)
2. He says, there are 3 things that make hell, hell. 1) Separation from God, 2) Inhumanity, 3) Unending Torment. What is so bad about separation from God? (maybe think as if you are talking to your unbelieving friend or relative who thinks they don't really like God anyway, so who cares if we aren't with Him)
3. Find a Bible verse (or verses) to go with each of the following 5 practical directions for living in light of hell.
  - a. *Use every means available to fight the delusion that what you choose to do or say doesn't make any difference.*
  - b. *Require yourself to see sin as sinful as it really is.*
  - c. *Be thankful for the final justice of God.*
  - d. *Celebrate forgiving grace every day.*
  - e. *Let the dark side of forever remind you of what is important.*
4. "the most essential thing in life is living in daily communion with a God whom we cannot hear, see, or touch." What does that look like in your daily life? How could you direct or encourage someone who says they struggle with experiencing that daily communion with God?

***Please bring these questions (and the questions for the Intro and Lesson 1) to our zoom call on April 1<sup>st</sup>.***

*If you can spend some time answering these for yourself before our meeting, you will get the most benefit out of our discussion. At a minimum, you need to have read through Chapter 4 before we get together.*

***Our next meeting for Chapters 5-8 will be May 6<sup>th</sup>.***