

“The Eternal God”

The Second Law Of Thermodynamics

Predicts that the entropy of an isolated system always increases with time. Entropy is the measure of the disorder or randomness of energy and matter in a system. Because of the second law of thermodynamics both energy and matter in the Universe are becoming less useful as time goes on. Perfect order in the Universe occurred...after [creation] when energy and matter and all of the forces of the Universe were unified.
(PhysicalGeography.net)

This well-known scientific tenet reminds us that the world is constantly changing. It is relentlessly moving toward a less usable state. This not only means that it must have had a beginning, it also means it will not last forever.

Here is an example to help us understand. If we leave a glass of water indefinitely on our kitchen table without it ever being disturbed, what will happen to it? Eventually it will evaporate. Let's say that this water included some kind of dye in it that left the sides of the glass discolored. If we came upon the glass after months of it sitting there and it was almost empty, yet had a dye ring which demonstrates how much was in it, would we conclude that the water now in it had always been there or will always there? No. The very fact that the volume had dissipated through evaporation leads us to believe there was a time when it was perfectly full to the visible line (but before that the glass was not filled). It also leads us to conclude there will come a time when it is gone. Such is the relationship between the eternal and change. That which is eternal never changes. Since the creation changes, it cannot be eternal.

How different the creation is from the Creator! The Bible makes it clear that God is eternal. Consider the following biblical texts:

- Genesis 21:33: “Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.”
- Psalm 90:2: “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”
- Psalm 93:2: “Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.”

“God is...infinite in relation to time.... The question, ‘How old is God? is simply inappropriate. He is no older now than a year ago, for infinity plus one is no more than infinity. He simply is not restricted by the dimension of time.” Millard J. Erickson, Christian Theology

- Lament. 5:19: “But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations.”
- Habakkuk 1:12a: “Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One?”
- Rev. 15:7: “And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.”

Eternality is the next attribute of God we want to consider. It can be defined this way: “God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly....” (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology)

The reality that God is eternal also introduces the fact that He does not change. The Bible makes this plain:

- Psalm 102:27: “but you are the same, and your years have no end.”
- Malachi 3:6: “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”
- Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
- James 1:17: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

This is all good news. If we think of that one(s) we believe to be the most faithful and consistent persons we know (maybe our parents, grandparents, or a friend), we understand that there may be days or situations which prohibit them from being present or able to help us. What is more, they cannot always be with us and, what is more, there will come a day when they are gone for good. Yet, God is always there, He always will be there, and who He is and what He is like will never morph into something else. He won't get up one morning and decide He does not love us anymore, that He does not want to fulfill His promises to us, or no longer wants to be for us. He is faithful. Lamentations 3:22-23 celebrates God's faithfulness in this way: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

WSC Q. 4. What is God? A. God is a Spirit, infinite, **eternal, and unchangeable**, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. (emphasis added)

“What [God] is now, he always was and always shall be. In other words, there is not becoming in God.... There are no before and after pictures of God Most High.... God doesn't change, because he is eternally one.”
–R. C. Sproul, Jr., Almighty Over All

Joanie Yoder (May 26, 2004 Our Daily Bread) told the following true story which causes us to ask what we believe about our faithful, eternal, unchangeable God:

*The great 16th-century theologian Martin Luther once experienced a long period of worry and despondency. One day his wife dressed in black mourning clothes.
"Who has died?" asked Luther.
"God," said his wife.
"God!" said Luther, horrified. "How can you say such a thing?"
She replied, "I'm only saying what you are living."
Luther realized that he indeed was living as if God were no longer alive and watching over them in love. He changed his outlook from gloom to gratitude.*

Do you ever act as if God had died or changed? Are you in a state like that now? Be reminded and encouraged that our eternal God has not changed and will not change. He will never leave you nor forsake you! (Hebrews 13:5)

Hebrews 13:5: "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

Family Discussion:

1. Are there any questions that came up during the reading?
2. Allow each family member to share why God's eternal, unchanging, faithful nature is important to you.
3. What are some ways you can be reminded of these attributes of God and cherish them in hard times?
4. If anyone can remember a time when God has been faithful to them, share this before you take turns praying, praising God for what He is like and asking that He will grant each of you to trust in His eternal, unchangeable, faithful nature.