

“Eternity’s Edge (9): The Magic Kingdom”

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☐ Hebrews 11:13-16

- ◆ Walter Bruegemann, *Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles*: “The metaphor of Babylonian exile will serve well for my urging. It is my sense that when the preacher proclaims in the baptized community in our present social context, the preacher speaks to a *company of* _____. This does not mean that the exiles will be all weak, powerless, inept people, for many are formidable. Nor does it mean that they are intellectually inferior, for some may be enormously astute, discerning, and sophisticated. It means simply that such people are at work seeking to maintain an *alternative identity*, an *alternative vision* of the world, and an *alternative vocation* in a societal context where the main forces of culture seek to deny, discredit, or disregard that odd identity. . . . Our task is to . . . sustain an alternative, subversive, countercultural identity.” (41, 42)

☐ Ecclesiastes 3:11 — “[God] has planted _____ in the human heart.” (NLT)

- ◆ Ted Dekker, *The Slumber of Christianity: Awakening a Passion for Heaven on Earth*: “What elevates our emotions, and what dashes them to the ground? What makes us jump for joy, and what sends us into a pit of deep discouragement? The answers are surprisingly simple: _____. And _____. If you think about what changes your mood from one of happiness to one of sadness, you will always find hopelessness. . . . Hope is the primary force that drives human beings from hour to hour. Hope for a simple pleasure, a hug, a kiss, a juicy rib eye cooked to perfection. A new red Corvette, a beautiful home, a long vacation in Europe. The renewed health of an ill child or aging mother. These are among the many hopes that motivate our daily lives. *Everything we do is driven by hope or hopelessness in one form or another.*” (34, 35)

☐ So what would happen if you and I spent a little time every day meditating on _____ ?

- ◆ Read Isaiah 64
- ◆ Read Revelation 21
- ◆ Read I Corinthians 2:9
- ◆ A song, a poem, some music

- ◆ “Paul had a view of heaven, and in discoursing on the glories there, the very best thing he could do was to not try to describe them. He tells us that eye had not seen nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for those that love Him. So you may *put your _____ to the stretch*, you may try to the very best of your abilities to take in and consider the eternal weight of glory, and yet your finite senses, faint and weary with the effort, cannot grasp it, for there is an infinity beyond. *It takes all of eternity to unfold the glories and bring out the precious treasures of the Word of God.*” (6BC 1107)
- ◆ An antidote for depression
- ◆ Gordon Fee — The ancient community of faith was “a group of believers who lived ‘in the presence of the _____.’” (In *Preaching to a Shifting Culture* 56)

*Once you've seen the view
You'll never quit climbing!*

exile, eternity, Hope, hopelessness, heaven, imagination, future