

The Big Question

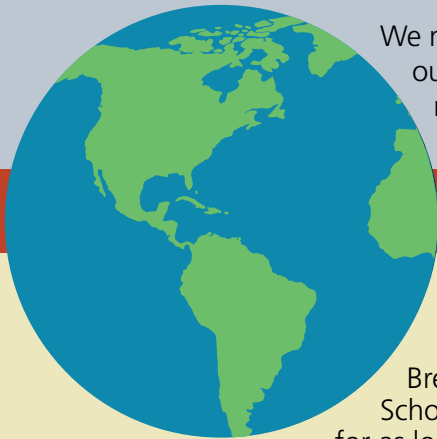
How can God have no beginning?

The truth that God had no beginning makes us scratch our heads. That's because we exist in time, meaning our lives have a beginning, middle, and end. We have no frame of reference for imagining an eternal existence. It's like trying to imagine a brand new color. We would have a hard time seeing the color in our minds because it is not like any color we have seen before. Similarly, we can't comprehend an eternal existence because it runs counter to our thinking.

God created time (Genesis 1:3–5), meaning He by necessity exists outside of time and is unbound by it. Think of a painter. He has to be outside of his canvas while painting his picture. And so it is with God and time.

The Bible teaches that God's perspective on time is different than our perspective. A thousand years is an incredibly long time to us, but to God it is like a day when compared to eternity (Ps. 90:4). Peter added that a day to God is like a thousand years (2 Pet. 3:8). The point is that God has unlimited time and is not constrained by it. He is above time and works His eternal plan as He sees fit.

We must accept that God is eternal and still working out His plan. He will yet fulfill all His promises no matter how many thousands of years go by.



Case in Point

Now and Eternity

Brent has been to Sunday School nearly every Sunday for as long as he can remember.

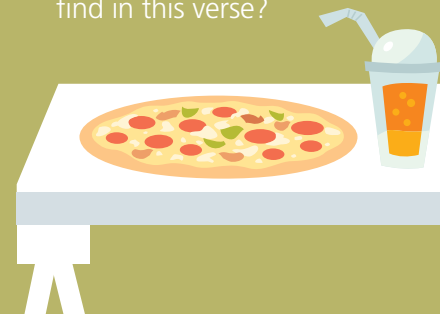
He doesn't mind church, but he doesn't see the need to be so worried about trying to obey God every moment of every day. Sometimes he likes to hang with his friends and just be a regular guy instead of a Christian. He doesn't guard what he says or watches. He joins whatever his friends are doing or saying.

"I know God understands," Brent thinks. "He knows I'm saved and that I have been good about going to church. Certainly He doesn't care too much about what I do with my friends. I'm just a sixth grader after all. I don't see how doing what I want to do could ever affect the future. I'll be in Heaven after I die. I know God won't kick me out of Heaven for anything I do or say on earth."



Ponder Points

1. What do you think of Brent's conclusion that what he does now won't affect eternity?
2. What about Brent's unsaved friends? Will Brent's actions affect them for eternity? How?
3. Read John 3:16. What motivation to live for God all the time might Brent find in this verse?



From Forever to Forever



Both God and circles have no start and no end.

G O D _____
(Genesis 1:1)



_____ L _____
(Psalm 90:2)



_____ V _____
(John 3:16)

Each circle has an eternal message about God. To discover the messages, choose one letter in each circle as a starting point. Move around each circle, skipping every other letter. Note the words formed by the letters and the message formed by the words. Write the words in the blanks. Some of the letters have been entered for you.

Forever Valuable

Read the list of things that will have value in eternity. Find the words in the word search.

E C I F I R C A S A G
P O K A T O L O V E V
A G N I S S E N T I W
K J E T E S S N E B P
G I C H N E S S E E I
O K I N D N E S S L H
W R V W O R S H I B S
W O R S H E J A Y I R
U Y E C N E I D E B O
P S S E N I L O H I W



FAITH
HOLINESS
KINDNESS
LOVE
OBEDIENCE
SACRIFICE
SERVICE
WITNESSING
WORSHIP

Your life can count for eternity right now! God is highly interested in working through you to make an eternal impact on those around you.

Measuring Growth

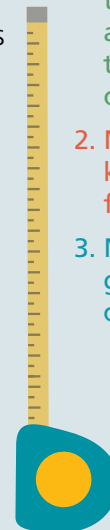
Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child is living for eternity.

1. My child believes in the reality of Heaven and Hell and has trusted in Jesus as his or her Savior.
2. My child serves God, knowing God rewards faithful service.
3. My child seeks God's grace when faced with challenges and fears.



The Junior lesson for this week presented God's eternity. The lesson challenged your child to live for eternity. Pay attention to his or her decisions. Help him or her see the opportunity to use his or her life to make an eternal difference. Spend time with your child talking about the spiritual growth measurables for this week's lesson.



STRONG
kids