

Foothills Church of Christ

"We treat you like family."



September 11, 2022

How Long Is Eternity?

We human beings would live forever if we could, for God has put eternity in our hearts (Eccl. 3:11). Death comes from sin, yet Paul tells us that God is making us an offer: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them **eternal life**, and they shall **never perish**" (John 10:27-28). Paul also said, "We know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, **eternal in the heavens**" (2 Cor. 5:1).

Eternity is a concept that is easy enough to understand but very difficult to truly appreciate. The word is defined as "infinite or unending time." John Newton found a better way to express eternity in his much-beloved hymn *Amazing Grace*: "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

Yet ten thousand is a far insufficient number compared to eternity. One could just as easily substitute ten million, ten billion, or even ten trillion years, and we will still have just begun. As the English language begins to run out of common terms for ever larger numbers, we usually start to make up our own words, such as "bazillion."

Come to rescue the English language from inadequacy was the American mathematician Edward Kasner. In 1938 he turned to his nine-year-old nephew Milton to propose a new term, and thus the *googol* entered our

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language (not the *Google* of Internet ubiquity). There are other terms for the number: apparently it is also called ten sexdecilliard on the Peletier long scale, or if that doesn't suit you, ten duotrigintillion on the short scale. I confess I do not understand a word of what I have just written. Thanks Milton for inventing a word for the rest of us!

A googol is 10^{100} . I suspect our memory on exponents is a little rusty for most of us, so we shall just say that as long as the big number is a 10, the little number tells how many zeros go after a 1. Thus 10^1 is just 10, 10^2 is 100, 10^3 is 1,000, etc. A googol is a 1 with 100 zeros after it:

10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

Dr. Kasner did not stop there: he initially defined a *googolplex* as a “one, followed by writing zeroes until you get tired.” He later refined the definition of a googolplex to be equal to 10^{googol} , in other words, a 1 with a googol zeros after it. I do not suggest trying to write that number; if every inhabitant of this world spent his whole life writing zeros, the cumulative total would still fall short.

Let us try to put this into perspective. If we were to dedicate this entire article to writing a one with zeros after it—without commas—we would only have room for 4,221 zeros. Far short of a googolplex, that number would nevertheless be quite sufficient for even our largest counting needs. The number of cells in the human body has been variously estimated to be between 10^{13} and 10^{14} . A 1 terabyte (TB) hard drive as found in a current mid-grade computer holds 10^{12} bytes. That is sufficient to store the full name of every person on earth several thousand times. Yet, if every person had one million of these 1 TB drives, we would still have fewer than 10^{25} bytes. The observable universe is estimated to contain up to 10^{24} stars. Even if we could count every atom in the observable universe, the number is estimated (by people with clearly too much spare time) to be 10^{80} .

It seems we have nothing to count that can reach even a single googol, much less a googolplex. Eternity, however, lasts much longer, whether measured in seconds, years, or even millennia. We could just as accurately sing, “When we’ve been there 10 googolplex millennia, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.” It goes beyond even the brightest imagination to fathom such great spans of time. Yet one “day” in eternity, we shall each celebrate our first googolplexth birthday, and even after that, we still have an endless number of googolplexes to go.

What should this mean to us? It means we should choose very carefully which place we will spend all that time. Remember, it is the first 80 years or so of your existence that will make all the difference.

—Garrett McGilvray

Announcements

Birthdays This Week

John McGilvray (September 13)
Todd Wright (September 14)
Naomi Mansfield (September 16)

Second Sunday Singing

Please plan to come at 5:30 this Sunday night before evening worship to learn new songs together and enjoy some fellowship.

WBS Benefit Dinner

World Bible School will be having a benefit dinner on Monday, September 12 at Harding University. The speaker will be Kyle Butt from Apologetics Press. Please sign the bulletin board today if you plan to attend.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Ann Flippin and family at the passing of her husband Howard Flippin on September 6. Visitation will be September 12 at Powell Funeral Home at 12 PM, with the funeral to follow at 2 PM.



*"The days of our lives are seventy years;
And if by reason of strength they are
eighty years,
Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;
For it is soon cut off, and we fly away."*

**Where in
the
Bible?**

Do you know where this
passage is found? See
page 4 for the answer.

For the Record

Attendance Last Sunday: 150
Contribution Last Sunday: \$4,485

Prayer Concerns

Current:

Tish Clarke
The Flippin Family
Jerry Hall
Terry Hall
Carrie Herrmann
Ann Holland
Wilma McPhail
Joyce Murrell
Robyn Roach
Kathy Rowe
Jim Shoop
Blaine Thomas
Marka White

Ongoing:

G. David (India)
Bristol Garner
Jimmy & Billie
Gibbins
Nellie Hardin
Etta Holden
Danny Langer
Doris Pruitt

Assisted Living:

Donna Brewer
Ann Flippin
Cloe Jordan
Doris McCoy
Dorothy Pensoneau
Gladys Widner



*"Continue earnestly in
prayer, being vigilant in it
with thanksgiving."*

(Colossians 4:2; NKJV)

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning

	September 11	September 18
<i>Announcements</i>	Dennis Widner	Dennis Widner
<i>Song Leader</i>	Jeremy Sciba	Jeremy Sciba
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Jon Alexander	Bob Lyons
<i>Lord's Table</i>	Paxton Davis Ethan Falconer James Libby Wade Lamberson	Paxton Davis Ethan Falconer James Libby Wade Lamberson
<i>Presiding</i>	Steve Carrell	Dennis Widner
<i>Scripture Reading</i>	Jaden Zerby	Gabriel Hodges
<i>Sermon</i>	Leon Brown	Leon Brown
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Jerry Griffin	Ron Talbert

Sunday Evening

<i>Song Leader</i>	Mason Sciba	Jon Alexander
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Bob Lyons	Micah Heavens
<i>Scripture Reading</i>	Jaden Zerby	Gabriel Hodges
<i>Sermon</i>	Leon Brown	Leon Brown
<i>Lord's Table</i>	Paxton Davis	Wade Lamberson
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Ron Talbert	Bobby Cofer

Wednesday

	September 14	September 21
<i>Auditorium Class</i>	Leon Brown	Leon Brown
<i>Devotional</i>	Larry Nokes	Larry Nokes
<i>Song Leader</i>	Paxton Davis	Mason Sciba
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Ethan Falconer	Paxton Davis

Answer to "Where in the Bible", page 3: **Psalms 90:10**

Contact Information

Elders

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 Jason White (Cell) 501-388-7030
 Dennis Widner (Cell) 501-283-2244

Minister

Leon Brown (Cell) 513-703-7035

Worship Times

Sunday

Bible Study..... 9:30 am
 Morning Worship..... 10:30 am
 Evening Worship..... 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study..... 7:00 pm