

What is Eternal?

By Ronald Bartanen

Can you conceive of there ever having been simply nothing? Does the present existence of something not indicate to you that something has always been? It would defy logic to think otherwise. Could anything be simpler than to conclude that from nothing, nothing comes? We live in a complex world and a complex universe. There are only two possible explanations for the existence of matter: either it has always been and is eternal, or it was created. We must conclude that either “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1), or “in the beginning was matter.” The Christian faith embraces God as the origin of all things, while atheists will accept the latter explanation for origins. However, the atheist’s faith must be confronted with perplexing dilemmas.

What is eternal? If matter is eternal, then the complex designs that we see in all things, from atoms to the universe, exist without a designer. The inescapable conclusion would be, then, that the logical order of all things has come, of itself, out of illogical chaos. Therefore, we would be forced to conclude that the conditions essential for life on planet earth just happened. All the laws of nature, we would have to conclude, exist without a law-giver. We live in a world that gives every evidence that it was designed for man. It is as acknowledged by Dr. Freeman Dyson of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, “It almost seems as if the Universe must in some sense have known we were coming.”

If matter is eternal, we have effects without causes. Christians look upon the laws of nature as God’s laws. Atheism provides no rational explanation for natural law apart from the Law-giver. Life exists, but the atheist’s faith is that life came from non-life, and that all evolved by chance. Such a claim, of course, is an assumption that is without reason and without evidence. In contrast, the Christian believes that all things were created by God. Life itself comes, not from non-life, but from the supreme Life-giver, God. Only He is eternal. We should say, as did Jeremiah, “Ah, Lord God: behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee” (Jeremiah 32:17).



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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May 20, 2018

WELCOME!

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m. Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Bible Study-6:30pm

All the churches of Christ greet you.
ROMANS 16:16

Today's Sermon: *Apollos: We Need More Like Him*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Scripture: Acts 18:24-28

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, May 22nd. We will be studying Day 4 of Chapter 4 in the lounge.** 😊
- **Housewarming Celebration- Thursday, May 31st- Sunday, June 3rd. Speakers so far are Don Myers from Montgomery, AL, Larry Krause from Kittanning, PA, and Steve Connors from Horseheads, NY., Orrin Nearhoof from Kentucky, Bill Garrett from Lewiston, PA, Frank Coletta from Clifton Park, NY and Alex Tullis from San José, CA. Also, Jeff Wyeth from Tunkhannock, PA.**

Next Potluck: June 17th



- **We will be needing muffins, coffee cakes, cookies, brownies, etc. for coffee times during the Housewarming if you want to get a head start. We are also providing a lunch on Saturday, June 2nd.**
- **Today is Lani's last Sunday with us.** She will be home next weekend for her brother's wedding and back in this area just to pack up and leave. 😞
- Thank you, **Ted**, for the **beautiful kitchen island/ serving table!** We will try it out today at our potluck! Please stay for potluck today as we say goodbye to Lani.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class is up and running!** Join us at 6:30pm Wednesday as we continue our study of Judges.
- **Ruthie and Patty's brother Stanley passed away on Monday afternoon from cancer. Our sympathy goes out to you both.**

PRAYERS...

- We pray that our **door-knocking/leafleting** campaign to introduce ourselves to the neighborhood **produces fruit and Bible studies.**
- Prayers for Ruthie and Patty's brother Stan and his wife Robin.
- **Prayer of thanksgiving that Connie has a full-time job at Walmart!**
- **Dara**, Darlene's sister, is searching for employment, as both of her current jobs have been cutting back hours.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**. Pray for her comfort as she is having trouble breathing. She just returned from hospital because of that. Also pray that she will reconsider Bible study.
- **Lori Kashorek** continues with experimental chemo treatments for her lung cancer. She continues to be free of brain tumors since her surgery, but relies solely on prayer since she was found to not have a genetic reason for the brain tumors; there is no specific medicine for her.
- Pray for **Vicki Joice** as she continues Herceptin treatments until June (coming right up!). She has 1 left to do! Also, pray that she doesn't become discouraged dealing with lymphedema day after day.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** has metastatic breast cancer. Pray for her comfort and that she will want to learn the truth about Christ soon.
- **Patty and Ruthie's cousin Cathy's husband Bruce** has kidney cancer.
- Pray for **Ruthie's** friend and former colleague, **Nancy Black**, who is living at Elderwood in Waverly. She is very grateful for prayers offered on her behalf.
- **Don Myers** back surgery was not successful. He is suffering pain from a swollen nerve and is trying a new medicine for that. He is hoping to have another surgery real soon!
- **Dave and Lynne Laton's daughter Natalie** has been diagnosed with Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma. She had good news that the tumor shrank after her first round of chemo, which takes 3-4 days of infusions. She has finished her fourth round of chemo now.
- **We pray for God's comfort for Ruthie and Patty as their brother Stanley has passed away. Also, we pray for his wife, Robin, and the rest of his family.**
- **We pray that Lani will enjoy her new job and life in Houston and that she will always remember us and keep in touch in the Lord.**

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry: barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.