

**An Eternal Weight Of Glory**  
(appropriate for High Schoolers and older)  
Michael R. Daily, June 2022

Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

References

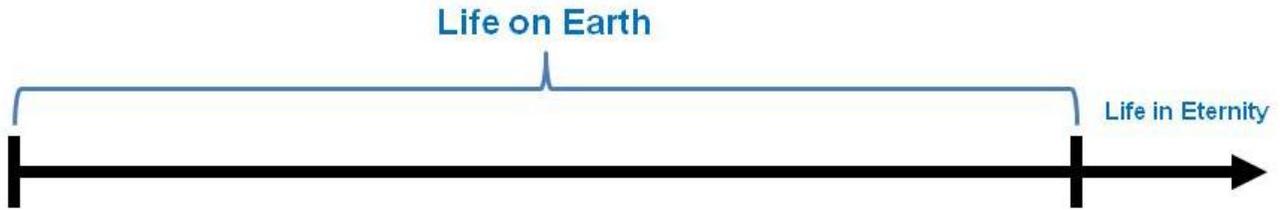
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C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory, THEOLOGY, November, 1941.

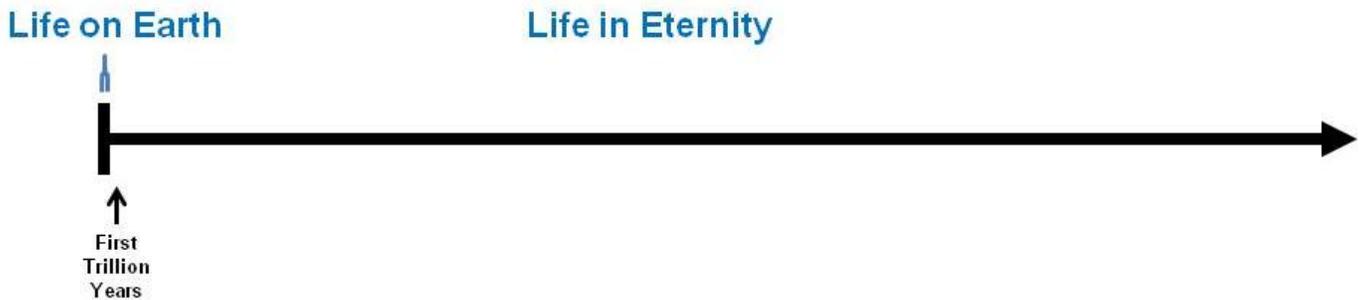
Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Grace and Glory, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Volume 43, May 17, 1885

R.C. Sproul (<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/eternal-weight-of-glory>)

The graph below is how most Christians view their lives.



But God views our lives very differently.



Compared to our lives in eternity, our life on the Earth is infinitesimally small. However, the decisions we make during our life on the Earth cast a long shadow throughout all of eternity. If we could see into the fullness of our eternal future we would be able to understand the value of our challenges, trials, and sufferings on the Earth. But we can't. Some of our sufferings we will understand later in life but some we won't understand until we enter eternity. For example, God never explained to Job why he had to suffer so much. Instead of insisting that God explain our sufferings right away, we are to respond according to **I Peter 4:19**.

**I Peter 4:19**

**Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.**

How we choose to respond to trials and testing and tribulations and suffering will determine who we become and what we experience in eternity.

**What are some of the benefits of trials, testing, and suffering?**

1) Development of a Godly Faith

**I Peter 1:6-7**

**In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

2) Development of a Christlike Character

**Ephesians 4:13**

**until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.**

3) Development of a Closer Relationship with God

**Hebrews 4:16**

**Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

4) Development of an Eternal Perspective

**Colossians 3:1-4**

**Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

5) Eternal Rewards

**I Corinthians 3:13-15**

**each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**

**Matthew 6:19-21**

**Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup> for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**The Doctrine of Eternal Glorification**

But there is another benefit to trials, testing, and suffering - one that we don't talk about very much.

It is the doctrine of eternal glorification of the Christian.

**II Corinthians 4:17-18**

**For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

**Romans 8:16-18**

**The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

*"... greater glory in eternity is related to suffering in this life. It's not related to achievement, human achievement, or even church achievement, I guess we could say. It's related to suffering. Suffering is a necessary part of the preparation for glory." – John MacArthur*

### **Romans 8:29-30**

**For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.**

**Glorification:** *to elevate by bestowing honor, praise, and admiration, resulting in great gratification and renown; the height of prosperity and achievement*

**Renown:** *a state of being widely acclaimed and highly honored; fame*

In addition to giving the Christian eternal life, eternal rewards, and an immortal body, God also plans to glorify us. We don't fully understand what this means but it appears to involve three things:

#### 1) Fame

*"When I began to look into this matter I was shocked to find such different Christians as Milton, Johnson and Thomas Aquinas taking heavenly glory quite frankly in the sense of fame or good report. But not fame conferred by our fellow creatures—fame with God, approval or (I might say) 'appreciation' by God. And then, when I had thought it over, I saw that this view was scriptural; nothing can eliminate from the parable the divine accolade, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'" – C.S.Lewis, **The Weight of Glory, Nov. 1941.***

### **Revelation 2:17**

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'**

God plans to give you a new name which starts as a secret, but I don't think it stays a secret. And the new name does not mean that you lose the name you currently have. When God says "a new name" think of it as more of a descriptive title that goes with your name that He might use to introduce you to angels and other people.

The closest thing I can compare it to on earth is how a famous person who has accomplished something difficult and noteworthy might be introduced. For example, if you won a Best Actor Oscar when you were in your 20s or 30s, how would you be introduced for the rest of your life? "May I introduce you to Academy Award winner, so and so". Other examples: "May I introduce you to Olympic Silver Medalist, so and so." "May I introduce you to so and so, recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor." Unless you did something later to ruin your reputation, this is how you would be introduced for the rest of your life.

How many of you know who President Zelensky is? Up until the first few months of 2022 no one knew him. Today, everyone in the world knows who he is. He's famous. And some people have given him a title, "The Ukrainian Winston Churchill". I don't know if he is or not but some people think so. But it comes with terrible suffering for himself, his family, and his nation. When you are in the midst of trials and testing and suffering remember that God is watching. How you respond will determine what God has to say about you in eternity.

*"There is more glory in one word of recognition from the King of kings than in all the Orders of the Garter, or of the Golden Fleece, that kings are able to distribute among their loyal subjects."*  
– **Charles Spurgeon, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Volume 43, 1885.**

God is looking for things He can praise you for in eternity.

But if we don't respond well to challenges, trials, testing, and suffering, it limits what God can say about us.

### **Proverbs 24:10**

**If you are slack in the day of distress, Your strength is limited.**

### Hebrews 10:32-38

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, 33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. 34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. 38 But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

### (II Timothy 4:10)

for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

### 2) Being Visually Impressive

Eternal glory also impacts our visual appearance in eternity. This includes a body built for immortality.

### Matthew 13:41-43

The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, <sup>42</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN IN the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

### Daniel 12:1-3

“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. <sup>2</sup> Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The closest thing I can compare this to on earth might be a military uniform. If you know how to interpret all of the insignia on the uniform you can get a pretty good idea of a soldier’s career just by looking for a few moments at their uniform.

Likewise, in eternity it seems that just by looking at our appearance people will be able to get a good idea of our faithfulness on Earth.

### 3) Having Weighty Value

*“... the Hebrew word ‘kabod’, which is translated into English as ‘glory,’ has the root meaning of ‘weight’ or ‘heaviness.’ This offers a clue that glory has to do with weight, and this is confirmed by passages such as II Corinthians 4:17, which speaks of the ‘weight of glory.’ But when we speak of glory as having to do with weight or heaviness, what exactly do we mean? Essentially, we are talking about worth or value.”*

– R.C.Sproul

When powerful people are acting inappropriately we sometimes say that they are “throwing their weight around”. So, weight tends to also be associated with authority, power, or influence (i.e. being someone who can’t be ignored).

In addition to fame and visual impact, eternal glory also involves some element of authority, power, or influence.

### **I Corinthians 15:42-44**

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable body; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.

### **Revelation 2:26**

He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

### **Luke 19:17**

And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.'

### **II Timothy 2:10-13**

For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. 11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

In eternity there will be billions of people in God's kingdom and it appears that it will be structured in cities and even nations to some degree. It also appears that God will appoint people to have authority over these cities, groups of cities, and nations.

### **I Corinthians 6:1-3**

Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? <sup>2</sup> Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

We will also be given authority to judge the world (perhaps in the Millennial Kingdom?) and angels (most likely fallen angels).

### **Conclusion**

Trials, testing, tribulations, and suffering prepare us for eternal glory. In addition to eternal rewards and an immortal body, this glory involves a reputation bestowed on us by God, it will be embodied in our visual appearance, and it will affect the authorities and responsibilities God will appoint us to throughout eternity.

## Appendix – Other Passages Related to Eternal Glory

### Romans 2:5-11

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: <sup>7</sup> to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; <sup>8</sup> but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. <sup>9</sup> *There will be* tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, <sup>10</sup> but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.

### Romans 9:22-24

What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup> And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup> *even us*, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

### II Corinthians 3:7-18

But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, <sup>8</sup> how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? <sup>9</sup> For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. <sup>10</sup> For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. <sup>11</sup> For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory. <sup>12</sup> Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, <sup>13</sup> and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. <sup>15</sup> But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; <sup>16</sup> but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

### Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

### Colossians 1:27-28

to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ

### I Thessalonians 2:11-12

just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, <sup>12</sup> so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

### Hebrews 2:9-10

But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup> For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

### I Peter 4:1-2&12-19

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,<sup>2</sup> so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup> but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

<sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; <sup>16</sup> but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? <sup>19</sup> Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

### I Peter 5:1-10

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

### II Thessalonians 2:13-14

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

<sup>14</sup> It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME: *An Eternal Weight Of Glory***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 4:19, I Peter 1:6-7, Ephesians 4:13***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 4:16, Colossians 3:1-4***

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 3:13-15, Matthew 6:19-21***

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**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME: *An Eternal Weight Of Glory***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 4:17-18, Romans 8:16-18, Romans 8:29-30***

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 2:17, Proverbs 24:10, Hebrews 10:32-38, II Timothy 4:10***

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 13:41-43, Daniel 12:1-3***

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*JEREMIAH 15:16*

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:42-44, Revelation 2:26, Luke 19:17***

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:10-13, I Corinthians 6:1-3***

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 2:5-11, Romans 9:22-24***

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*JEREMIAH 15:16*

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 5:25-27, Colossians 1:27-28***

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 2:11-12, Hebrews 2:9-10***

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Thessalonians 2:13-14***

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