

### Illustrations:

- **Thomas Edison**—Late in life, Edison expressed himself as feeling as if he were but a small boy playing along the beach, picking up and examining a pebble here, and another there, while the limitless expanse of coastline and ocean stretched out before him. (66)
- **God the Artist**—A good and intelligent man does not immediately destroy the masterpiece that he has made. Suppose that a great artist after finishing a beautiful picture should take his knife and cut it to shreds. Or that a great sculptor after finishing a beautiful statue should take his hammer and break it to pieces. Would not mankind indict him for a lack of intelligence, or for irrationality? Surely a good and wise Creator will not finish His masterpiece, which is man, and then so soon destroy him. (67)
- **The eagle**—Man’s soaring ambitions and his longing for a greater freedom are indications that he was created for a higher life. When, for instance, we see a great eagle confined in a cage, his wings trailing the ground as he walks, we know that that lordly creature was never meant to spend his life in that cage. The Creator who gave him those mighty pinions intended that they should serve to carry him away into the boundless spaces of the far distances. The same Creator who designed that eagle’s whole nature for the wide-open sky likewise made us for a larger sphere than we are able to find here. (68)

“If human life consisted only of the time that lies between birth and death it would be but a truncated and largely futile thing. The broken column, resting on a base but reaching nowhere, is a fitting symbol to express the incompleteness of life in this world.” (67)

## 5. The Argument from Analogy

- **Analogy #1—seasons**

“There are many analogies in nature which point clearly to a resurrection and new life. In the autumn, for instance, nature seems to die. The flowers fade. The leaves fall from the trees and the grass withers. Most of the bird and insect life departs, and soon the earth is covered with a cold blanket of snow and ice. Life seems to be over; death seems to have conquered, to be the master. But in due time the spring comes, and with it warm air and new life. The barren trees put forth new buds and leaves. The buried seeds, which looked so dry and lifeless, germinate, send up new plants, and put forth gorgeous fragrant flowers. The grass becomes green, and the birds return and are heard on every hand. The caterpillar or larva comes out of its rough and unsightly cocoon and develops into the beautiful butterfly or highly colored moth. Throughout nature the dormant stage gives way to the growing stage. That which appeared to be dead is alive again; all nature seems to rejoice.” (69-70)

- Analogy #2—the first law of thermodynamics (law of conservation of energy) states that the energy of a closed system must remain constant—it can neither increase nor decrease without interference from outside. The universe itself is a closed system, so the total amount of energy in existence has always been the same. Only the forms that energy takes are constantly changing.
- “It is an axiom of science that no material object in the universe can be destroyed. That which disappears in one form reappears in another, either in the form of matter or of energy. The log is burned and disappears as a log. But the scientist can prove that every particle of that log continues to exist although in a different form. When the person dies the body, too, returns to its elements, but is not destroyed. This law operates everywhere throughout nature. If, then, the material of man’s body continues to exist, surely the life, which is of infinitely greater value, must be going on somewhere. Surely God in His wisdom and goodness would not preserve the lower elements of His creation and permit the higher to perish.” (70-71)

## 6. Immortality an Innate Idea

- Examples of innate or intuitive truths: God, right and wrong; immortality
- “The natural longing of mankind for continued existence is inexplicable if it is not founded on reality. A belief that is age-long and worldwide is not to be set aside lightly. In this connection we must keep in mind that not all of our knowledge is received through the physical senses. There are some basic truths—innate or intuitive truths, we call them—that are given to man by creation, ideas that arise from the constitution of the mind, as contrasted with others that are acquired through experience. These truths may be further developed in life by the knowledge that comes through experience, but they are not in themselves dependent on experience. One such truth is belief in God. Another is the moral sense of right and wrong. Still another is that with which we are presently concerned, belief in a future life or in the immortality of the soul. There never has been a tribe discovered anywhere, even among the most primitive people, that did not have these three basic beliefs.” (71)
- Examples from nature: time, space, number, cause and effect
- “How strange that we cannot love time. It spoils our loveliest moments. Nothing quite comes up to expectations because of it. We alone: animals, so far as we can see, are unaware of time, untroubled. Time is their natural environment. Why do we sense that it is not ours?
- C. S. Lewis, in his second letter to me at Oxford, asked how it was that I, as a product of a materialistic universe, was not at home there. ‘Do fish complain of the sea for being wet? Or if they did, would that fact itself not strongly suggest that they had not always been, or would not always be, purely aquatic creatures?’ Then, if we complain of time and take such joy in the seemingly timeless moment, what does that suggest? It suggests that we have not always been

or will not always be purely temporal creatures. It suggests that we were created for eternity. Not only are we harried by time, we seem unable, despite a thousand generations, even to get used to it. We are always amazed at it—how fast it goes, how slowly it goes, how much of it has gone. Where, we cry, has the time gone? We aren't adapted to it, not at home in it. If that is so, it may appear as a proof, or at least a powerful suggestion, that eternity exists and is our home." (Sheldon Vanauken, *A Severe Mercy*)

- Other examples in nature: beavers, birds, and bees

## 7. Proof Not to be Obtained from Science or Philosophy

"In the study of immortality our primary source of information cannot be either Science or Philosophy. Science can view these things only from the limited viewpoint of the material world and can accept only that testimony which comes through the physical senses. It is therefore unable to deal with the basic issue and can give no real assurance either for or against immortality." (73)

- Science

"Physical science as such cannot tell us anything about immortality, for it deals only with tangible things, that is, with life and phenomena in the physical world. The only answer that it can give to the question of immortality is a profound silence. Concerning the unseen spiritual world, it knows nothing and has no way of finding out. Materialistic science often refuses even to admit that the soul is a life principle independent of the body until positive sensory evidence is given. But that is asking too much. Since the body and the soul belong to different spheres, it is unreasonable to seek sensory evidence in the body as confirmation of the reality of the soul. That position is as unreasonable as for a blind man to deny that there is any such thing as light, for the simple reason that he cannot see it. The difficulty is not with the light but in the fact that he does not have the right organ. True and unprejudiced science declares only that it can give neither proof nor disproof of the spiritual, and that so far as it is concerned the spiritual must be dealt with as an unverified hypothesis." (74)

- Philosophy

"No philosopher has ever been able to solve the riddle of the universe, nor has any been able to find a remedy for sin." (74)

“It is well to remember that in a materialistic philosophy there is no place for the supernatural, either in the past or in the future. Man is entirely on his own. He is simply an accident—merely an accident—in the cosmic process. Materialism knows no freedom; and without freedom there can be no responsibility. Right and wrong have no moral meaning in a materialistic universe. Expediency has replaced them. Conscience is but a trick of nature adopted to make social life possible and to save us from mutual slaughter.” (C. B. McMullen, *Aides to Bible Study*)

## 8. Scripture Teaching Regarding Immortality

“The Bible treats the subject of the immortality of the soul in much the same way that it treats the existence of God—such belief is assumed.” (78)

OT: God in the book of Esther: never named; ever-present

NT: the people to whom Jesus came

- Old Testament passages
  - *Genesis 5:24*—*Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Hebrews 11:5*—*By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death*
  - *Genesis 15:15, 25:8* (*Abraham*); *35:29* (*Isaac*); *49:33* (*Jacob*) were “gathered up to his [their] people”
  - *Job 14:14*—*If someone dies, will they live again? 19:25-26*—*I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God*
  - *Psalms 16:10*—*you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead (sheol), nor will you let your faithful one see decay. Acts 2:31*—*Seeing what was to come, he [David] spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay*
  - *Psalms 17:15*—*As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness*
  - *Psalms 73:24-25*—*You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.*
  - *2Samuel 12:23*—*But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.*
  - *Ecclesiastes 12:7*—*the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it*
  - *Isaiah 26:19*—*But your dead will live, LORD; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead*

- **Daniel 12:2-3**—*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*
- **Hosea 13:14**—*I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?*
- New Testament passages
  - 1 Corinthians 15:1-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 2 Corinthians 4:8-5:10
  - **Matthew 10:28**—*Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*
  - **John 3:16**—*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
  - **John 5:28-29**—*Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.*
  - **John 11:25-26**—*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*
  - **John 14:1-3**—*Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*
  - **2 Timothy 1:10**—*our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*
  - **1 John 5:11-13**—*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*
  - **Revelation 1:18**—*I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*
- The people of Europe after Christopher Columbus discovered America, 1492
- Conclusion
  - “The Bible is unmistakably clear in teaching that man does have an immortal soul and that he shall live for ever and ever.” (82)

## 9. Wholesome Results That Flow from a Belief in Immortality

Specifically, from a belief in immortality for those who are *in Christ*:

- Wholesome results include:

“What a source of joy and satisfaction the anticipation of the future life is even here in this world! The saint who well-nigh exhausted under the burden of earthly care and responsibility can and does look away with pleasure to that happy home. What a sense of comfort the hope of immortality brings to the sick, the persecuted, the neglected and the aged!” (82)

- But having mixed feelings about going remains

*Philippians 1:18-24—I will continue to rejoice, <sup>18</sup>for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup>I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup>I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup>but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*

- Our residency here is temporary

“The doctrine of immortality makes us aware that we are but temporary residents in this world. It was never intended that we should settle down here as permanent citizens.” (83) *Philippians 3:20-21—our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

- Being remembered is nice. We mentioned earlier a phrase from the Jewish funerals, “May his memory be for a blessing.” However, consider this additional commentary:
 

“It is, of course, nice to live on in the minds and hearts of a grateful posterity. But, as just said, that is not immortality at all in the true sense of the term. If that were all, most of us would not live very long. It is only rarely that the deceased is remembered by any great number. Those who so stand out in the history of any nation are few indeed.” (85)
- Will there be non-human company in heaven?

“The difference between men and animals is such that the immortality of the former would seem to exclude that of the latter. Man is a self-conscious, moral being. He knows the difference between right and wrong. He has a sense of the existence of God, and of the reality of sin when he offends against God. His being therefore demands a future life in which he shall receive rewards or

punishments. But the animal has none of these attributes. It has no real moral nature. Its actions are governed primarily by instinct and habit. It has consciousness, but not self-consciousness.” (85)

“This, however, does not necessarily mean that in heaven there will be no animal or bird or plant life. What would the present earth be like without these? No doubt part of the glory of the renewed earth will be a restored and rejuvenated animal and plant life that will reflect the beauty of that realm.” (85)

- What about mere peace and quiet, a restful sleep?

“Noted British scientist, Julian Huxley, like many another who became absorbed with material things, could see little hope of the future. On his tomb were inscribed the following words:

And if there be no meeting past the grave,  
If all is darkness, silence, yet 't is rest.  
For God still giveth his beloved sleep,  
And if an endless sleep he wills, so best.” (86-87)

Compare with Jesus’ words:

*John 14:1-3—Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

- In *Crossing the Bar* (1889), Alfred, Lord Tennyson hopes for something better

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning at the bar,  
When I put out to sea.  
  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns home again.  
  
Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark.  
  
For though from out our bourne of Time and Place,  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

- A final, personal reflection on my mentor and friend, Dr. Roy Naden

Jenny—

In 1896, Rudyard Kipling published a book of poetry entitled, *The Seven Seas*. The final poem in that collection was called “L’Envoi,” which translated means, “The Sending.” I read it on my flight to Seattle on January 4, 2018, while leafing through Loraine Boettner’s book, *Immortality*. It prompted thoughts of Roy and inspired me to make some changes to verses one and three. Here’s the original:

—Ted

**L’Envoi**  
(Rudyard Kipling)

When Earth’s last picture is painted  
And the tubes are twisted and dried,  
When the oldest colors have faded  
And the youngest critic has died,  
We shall rest, and faith, we shall need it—  
Lie down for an aeon or two,  
Till the Master of All Good Workmen  
Shall set us to work anew!

And only the Master shall praise us,  
And only the Master shall blame;  
And no one shall work for money,  
And no one shall work for fame;  
But each for the joy of working  
And each in his separate star,  
Shall draw the Thing as he sees it  
For the God of Things as they are!

My version is flagrant, yet unashamed, plagiarism. It fails to maintain the subtlety of the original, and changes the metaphor from painting to music, yet I felt it more fitting for Roy. His love of music and his granddaughters combined beautifully as he taught them to play the violin and cello. Seeing them play at his memorial as young adults was a moving tribute to “Papa.” So, for Roy—with apologies to Rudyard—until that day:

**The Sending**  
(In honor of Roy C. Naden)

When Earth’s orchestra finishes playing  
The Composer shall rise from his seat,  
When all instruments drift into silence  
With its last composition complete,  
We shall rest, and faith, we shall need it—  
Lie down for an aeon or two,  
Till the Maestro of All Good Musicians  
Shall set us to playing anew!

When the Maestro arises to praise us  
And bestow undeserving acclaim,  
Then no one shall play for money  
And no one shall play for fame;  
But each for the joy of playing  
And each in her separate chair,  
Shall play a new piece as she hears it  
For the Maestro Extraordinaire!