



Eternity Magazine: Yesterday and Today

Where can a Christian read thought-provoking writing that is timeless and reliable? Sifting through the myriad of available resources in the current media-driven world makes it difficult to find trustworthy editorials that are scholarly and do not subvert the truth of the Word of God. The Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals has preserved the entire anthology of a publication that meets this description.

The History

Founded by Dr. Donald Barnhouse in 1950, *Eternity Magazine* was published monthly for almost 40 years. When Dr. James Boice became part of the editorial board twenty years later, the magazine continued its distinguished reputation as a conservative Christian magazine that published articles by prominent pastors and theologians whose writing encouraged the Church to lead boldly on the great issues of the times, always in light of the Gospel. Contributors such as Sinclair Ferguson, C. Everett Koop, J.I. Packer, and R.C. Sproul wrote from a viewpoint that encouraged the reader to think about and respond to these topics from a solidly Christian perspective, "applying God's Word to all of life."

The Connection

The Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals, a broad coalition of pastors and scholars from various denominations, exists to call the Church to confess the truth of God's Word and to see that truth embodied in doctrine, worship, and life. These words from the organization's mission statement mesh seamlessly with the aim and intention of *Eternity Magazine*. The contributors are made up of a wide-ranging group of writers and theologians who were committed to presenting content from a solidly biblical worldview. The articles in each issue call the Church to profess the truth of God's Word in their lives and then to speak that truth to others in all areas of life and culture.

The Purpose

The objective of *Eternity Magazine* was to be an effective and responsible voice in Christian journalism. The periodical never bowed to the postmodern theories of relativism or moralism as so many other Christian publications had done. Instead it stood on the truth and power of the Gospel. Perusing the collection of articles gives the reader a unique insight on the Church's response to many issues that society still grapples with today. Essays written in 1964 on the Civil Rights Act, in 1971 on abortion, or in 1987 on climate change have proven to be incredibly relevant throughout the decades and even show a historically significant perspective in 2020.

The Need

The enduring content of this significant publication should be preserved in a way that it is readily available to the public. It is easy to understand why the Alliance is contacted regularly by readers requesting articles from past issues. However, the process of locating, scanning, and forwarding an individual column is arduous and not cost effective. A more productive approach is to have all the issues converted to digital files. From there, the files can be transformed into digital flipbooks. Using a specifically designed software, the flipbooks would be free of most of the outdated advertisements and readily available on the internet. The ultimate goal would be to create a website that has the entire content from *Eternity* available so that anyone can find a specific subject or author in a back issue easily by using a familiar search engine.

The Solution

Digitalizing *Eternity Magazine* is a worthwhile endeavor. The projected cost to convert the printed publication to an on-line version is \$100 per issue. This important first step in this undertaking requires staff personnel to carefully scan the paper volumes to create an electronic form. The content then would be accessible through the Alliance website. Through the generosity of a corps of Alliance supporters, this project could begin without delay. As it is a costly venture, \$48,000 in total, donors could take on the mission of supporting a portion of the work to be done, perhaps by underwriting the cost of \$1,200 for a single year of publication. As the completed work is made available to the Alliance readers, it is anticipated that others will join the effort with their support as well. Preserving the historic content in *Eternity Magazine* will certainly have a long-standing influence on conservative publications and will preserve the voice of Christian journalists for years to come.