

ETERNAL LIFE IS IN GOD'S SON

I. THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

A. *God* is the One who gave us eternal life. We couldn't get it from anyone else. We have an eternal relationship with God Himself because He's the One who decided to give it to us, and then gave it to us, and He will never take it back. Ephesians 1:4-7

B. God is the One who *gave us* eternal life. We didn't buy it, work for it, earn it, or deserve it – it was a gift. This gift was given to us in in the past. Romans 5:6-8

C. God is the One who gave us *eternal life*. This life is not physical in nature, but rather it is spiritual and supernatural in nature. It is having a relationship with God Himself, and this is an important and needed relationship. You will be empty, sad, lonely, angry, selfish, hopeless, miserable and unloved without God. 1 John 4:16

D. Eternal life means God has special plans for your life. Eternal life is a relationship with a purpose. God gives you a reason to live, a purpose to fulfill and work to do. Eph. 2:8-10

E. Eternal life is eternal, it goes on forever and ever. Your eternal life is continuous and has no breaks, gaps or interruptions in it. Death is but a door from earth to heaven. And when you die or are raptured then your eternal life will get much better.

II. ETERNAL LIFE IS IN GOD'S SON.

A. Yes, God gives us eternal life, but it is through Jesus Christ. That is, Christ is the only means by which we can be saved. "*There's salvation in no one else; for there's no other name under heaven that's been given among men by which we must be saved.*" Acts 4:12

B. Eternal life is in Christ. This word "*in*" conveys this close, intimate, personal and secure relationship that a believer has with Jesus Christ.

III. ONCE YOU ARE SAVED THEN YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE FOREVER – 1 John 5:12

If you have Jesus Christ, then you are saved and have eternal life forever. If you don't have Christ, then you aren't saved and don't have eternal life. John 5:24

IV. SALVATION IS INSTANTANEOUS AND IS NOT PROGRESSIVE

There is no such thing as progressive salvation or justification. Salvation is not a matter of taking your whole life to get saved. It's not a matter of being a good person, of living a good life, of doing a number of good deeds that will somehow cancel out or erase your bad deeds, your sins. It's not a matter of earning your way to heaven.

V. A PERSON'S REAL PROBLEM IS HIS SIN, A DEADLY SPIRITUAL CANCER

A. Romans 6:23, God says, "*The wages of sin is death.*" The problem is sin, and the penalty, the punishment for sin is death, eternal death. Ephesians 2:1

B. A person's good deeds don't solve a person's sin problem – they don't somehow erase his sins - they just can't do it. Titus 3:5

C. A person's sin is dealt with in one of two ways – either the person must die or Jesus Christ must die for him. 1 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 9:11-12, Hebrews 10:11-12

D. Jesus Christ is the answer to our problem of sin. He took our place, and died for us. He was punished by God for people's sins – He paid for people's sins. All those who repent of their sins, and believe in Christ are saved, not by their works but by the work of Christ.

VI. HAVING THE SON – 1 John 5:12

A. Psalm 23:1 - "*The Lord is my shepherd.*". Psalm 119:57 - "*The Lord is my portion.*" The Lord is your shepherd, your portion, He is yours. You have Him, you possess Him.

B. Psalm 23:1 - "*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*" Having the Son and therefore having life, means you have everything you need.

I WANT TO KNOW CHRIST AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING IN HIS SUFFERINGS.

Philippians 3:10

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How would you describe eternal life?
3. What encourages you most about having eternal life?
4. Think about what it means to have eternal life forever, here on earth and in heaven.
5. Describe the error of progressive justification or salvation. Why is it wrong?
6. Why is Jesus Christ the only answer for our problem of sin? What did He do?
7. What does it mean to you that the Lord is your shepherd? Why is this so important?