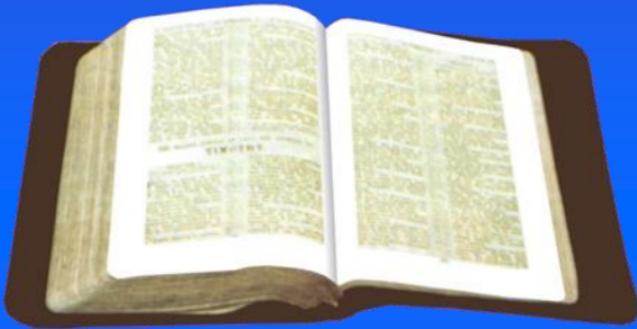


BASIC BIBLE TEACHING



Eternal Life

BASIC BIBLE TEACHING

Eternal Life

Do we have eternal life within us now?

A POPULAR answer would probably be, Yes! The Scriptural answer is undoubtedly, No.

- **Eternal life is a matter of promise.**

*1 John 2:25 (KJV)... this is the **promise** that he hath promised us, even **eternal life**.*

*Titus 1:2 (KJV)... **eternal life**, which God, that cannot lie, **promised** before the world began;*

*2 Timothy 1:1 (KJV)... according to the **promise** of **life** which is in Christ Jesus,*

Eternal life is PROMISED by God. It cannot therefore be something we already possess, for what a person 'has' cannot be 'promised' to him.

- **Eternal life is to be received in the world to come.**

*Mark 10:30 (KJV)... he shall receive... in the world to come **eternal life**.*

*John 12:25 (KJV)... he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto **life eternal**.*

Romans 2:6 (KJV) (God) will render... 7 To them who... seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life... 16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ...

Matthew 25:46 (KJV)... the righteous (shall go) into life eternal.

If eternal life is to be given at a future time, it clearly cannot be possessed at the present time.

- **'Eternal life' is translated in the King James Version from the New Testament Greek which means literally 'the life of the Age to come'. It is also translated 'everlasting life' and is a life which will never end.**

Luke 20:35 (KJV)... they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world... 36 Neither can they die any more...

John 10:28 (KJV)... I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,

Romans 6:23 (KJV)... the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our present life is not everlasting, but ends in death.

At death we corrupt back into dust.

- **Eternal or everlasting life requires a change of this corruptible and mortal body into an incorruptible and immortal one.**

Philippians 3:21 (KJV) Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...

1 Corinthians 15:53 (KJV)... this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

2 Corinthians 5:4 (KJV)... clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

It is evident from our mortal and corruptible nature that we do not possess immortal life.

BUT SOME WILL SAY:

‘There are passages that plainly say we have eternal life.’

For Example:

1 John 5:13 (KJV)... ye have eternal life...

1 John 5:11 (KJV)... God hath given to us eternal life...

John 3:36 (KJV) He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life...

There are such passages: but what are we to make of them? It is not sensible to apply a meaning to them which contradicts and makes

the other passages meaningless and void.

The Scripture is at one with itself, and if we make it contradict itself, there is something wrong with our interpretation.

It is more reasonable to see if the passages can be harmonised.

We cannot make the idea of present possession of eternal life agree with passages which clearly tell us it is something to be received in the future.

We can, however note the custom of Scripture to speak of future things that are certain as though they were present.

For Example:

*Genesis 17:5 (KJV)... a father of many nations **have I made thee**. [when as yet Abram had no son].*

*Genesis 15:18 (KJV)... Unto thy seed **have I given** this land, [when as yet there was no seed].*

*Genesis 27:37 (KJV)... Isaac... said unto Esau... **I have made him** [Jacob] thy lord, and all his brethren **have I given** to him for servants; and with corn and wine **have I sustained** him... [when as yet Jacob had realised none of these things].*

To speak of *'things which be not as though they*

were' is something that God does because he knows the end from the beginning.

*Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and **calleth those things which be not as though they were.***

There are many other examples. A single New Testament illustration may suffice: Jesus in prayer said to the Father,

*John 17:22 (KJV)... the glory which thou gavest me **I have given them...** [when as yet, even Jesus himself was not glorified.]*

*John 7:39 (KJV)... because that Jesus was **not yet glorified.***

Jesus said, '*I give them eternal life*'. In the sense in which he gives it to them - in promise and guarantee - in that sense they 'have' it - not actually, but because of the CERTAINTY of its future possession.

Christ now has it actually, and those who possess him possess it, for he is our life,

Colossians 3:4 (KJV) When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

The life is in Christ.

1 John 5:11 (KJV)... God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Christ dwells in the believer's heart by faith

Ephesians 3:17 (KJV) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...

It is in this sense only that eternal life abides in the believer. But this sense is nonetheless very important, for the possession of eternal life by faith will lead to its actual glorious possession in the age to come.

Should the believer fall away during his or her lifetime, they will not attain to eternal life.

*Philippians 3:12 Not as though **I had already attained**, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that **I may apprehend** that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

*1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, **I myself should be a castaway.***

Eternal Life is not something we already possess—It is the reward for the faithful; to be given at the Return of Christ.