

Lessons From I John

Eternal Life

(I Jn 5:11-13)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
 - a. Remember earlier John wrote concerning eternal life.
 - i. **I Jn 1:1-4** "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."¹
 1. Here we find eternal life being the focus since it is in the neuter.
 2. Thus what John started out pointing out is that eternal life is found manifested in Christ.
 - b. John picks up his writing now concerning this eternal life manifested in Christ.
 - i. **I Jn 5:11-13** "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."
3. Eternal life is a phrase I think everyone likes to hear.
 - a. From those that never want to die.
 - b. To those that do not fear death.
 - i. It is a comforting word.
4. The question isn't if the phrase is comforting but what does it really stand for?
 - a. Today we are going to examine this idea through John's writing here in our current passage.

I. Eternal Life Past, Present, Or Future

- A. Letting the Bible define itself
 1. Past
 - i. **I Jn 5:11** "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." (NKJV)
 2. Present
 - i. **I Jn 5:12** "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."
 3. Future
 - i. **Ro 2:6-7** "He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life"

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- ii. **Ti 1:2** "in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began"
 4. Thus we find it in all three ways
 - i. This simply means that context must determine the "time" of the action under consideration.
- B. Eternal life is all three past present and future
 1. The term eternal life is simply describing the same thing but through different concepts.
 - i. Paul uses it to describe the eternal life we have after the judgment.
 - ii. John uses it to describe the eternal life we have now.
- C. Eternal life's meaning in our text
 1. John begins this letter by describing eternal life as Jesus.
 - i. **I Jn 1:2** "the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us"
 2. John ends this letter by describing eternal life as knowing Him who is true and being in Him who is true...Jesus.
 - i. **I Jn 5:20** "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."
 3. Thus we find Jesus describing eternal life in the same way as John.
 - i. **Jn 17:3** "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."
 4. As a result we find eternal life is fellowship with God and Christ.
 - i. When Paul uses it he is describing the fellowship we will have with God and Christ after the judgment.
 - ii. When John uses it he is describing the fellowship we have already with God and Christ we received when saved and continue to have.
- D. So what do we find here then...
 1. God has given us eternal life ie a quality of life based upon fellowship with Deity.
 2. Where does one find this eternal life however?

II. Eternal Life Is In God's Son

- A. He who has the Son has life
 1. We must know and understand that...
 - i. Jesus defined eternal life as knowing God and Himself thus fellowship.
 - a. **Jn 17:3** "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."
 - ii. Jesus taught that He came that we may have abundant life.
 - a. **Jn 10:10** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

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- iii. Jesus is the only one who has the "words of eternal life."
 - a. **Jn 6:68** "Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"
- iv. Paul made it clear that all spiritual blessing (which includes eternal life) are found in Jesus.
 - a. **Ep 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"
- 2. The conclusion of this knowledge and understanding is this...
 - i. It is only in Jesus that eternal life can be found and if we want eternal life we must be in Jesus.
- B. He who does not have the Son does not have life
 - 1. This sounds rather exclusive or limited compared to what many modern preachers teach today. Many like Billy Graham teach everyone is going to heaven Christ follower or not.
 - i. This exclusivity is not just John's words (though inspired by God) but Jesus' as well.
 - a. **Jn 14:6** "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
 - ii. Peter, inspired by God, also made this clear as well.
 - a. **Ac 4:12** "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
 - 1. Not Mohammed, Gandhi, Buddha, Daali Lama, Joseph Smith, Billy Graham...
 - 2. Thus the one outside of Christ has no hope of eternal life now or in the future.

III. Eternal Life Can Be Known

- A. John has written that we may know we are saved not just hope that we are
 - 1. "Now by this we know that we know Him"
 - i. **I Jn 2:3**
 - 2. "By this we know that we are in Him"
 - i. **I Jn 2:5**
 - 3. "We know we have passed from death to life"
 - i. **I Jn 3:14**
 - 4. "And by this we know that we are of the truth"
 - i. **I Jn 3:19**
 - 5. "And by this we know that He abides in us"
 - i. **I Jn 3:24**
 - 6. "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us"
 - i. **I Jn 4:13**
 - 7. "I write these things...that you may know that you have eternal life"
 - i. **I Jn 5:13**
- B. When do we know we have eternal life
 - 1. When we keep the commandments of Jesus.
 - i. **I Jn 2:3-4**

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2. When we keep His Word.
 - i. **I Jn 2:5**
 3. When we love the brethren.
 - i. **I Jn 3:14**
 4. When we believe what the Spirit has revealed about such things.
 - i. **I Jn 3:24; 4:13**
 5. When we confess Jesus to be the Son of God.
 - i. **I Jn 4:15**
 6. When we believe that Jesus is the Christ.
 - i. **I Jn 5:1**
- C. When all this is put together...
1. "Taken together, these "benchmarks" reveal that one truly "knows" the Lord, and thereby has "eternal life"

CONCLUSION

1. John's deepest desire, and God's, was that his readers would continue to believe in the name of the Son of God (**I Jn 5:13c**).
 - a. This too is my desire, that we continue to believe and understand what that means believing in the name of the Son of God.
2. Question: To you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and thus know you have eternal life or is your faith weak?
 - a. If your faith is weak please take the time to read the book of John.
 - i. **Jn 20:30-31**
 - b. If your faith is strong continue to grow thereby and to always look to Him above.
 - i. **II Pt 1:5-8**
3. Invitation²
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**

² Mark Copeland's sermon outline "Life In The Son" was of great use to this outline and heavily relied on.