

## Eternal Life

Bill Boyd

Man was made for eternal life. This life was his in the beginning, but when man chose sin, the life he had in Eden was taken from him and spiritually, he was dead (Gen. 2-3). The life that was lost in the garden is restored in Christ. "In him was life" John said (John 1:4), and Jesus said "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

There is a sense in which eternal life is spoken of as a future reward for "the righteous" (Matt. 25:46) that they will receive "in the world to come" (Mark 10:30), and therefore "he that soweth of the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Gal. 6:8). In this sense the righteous have eternal life in promise. Jesus died that "they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15). "This is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life" (1 John 2:25). Therefore we have eternal life in hope. Paul wrote to Titus "in hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2) and told him that being justified by grace we are made "heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).

But there is more to eternal life than eternal existence. Having been made spiritual beings in the image of God we will all exist eternally, but for some, this will be "eternal punishment" (Matt. 25:46). The eternal life Christ brings to us is not just eternal in duration, but it is also eternal in its qualities. The eternal qualities of eternal life are the qualities of the spiritual life we now have in Christ. That is why some passages speak of eternal life as a present possession. "God hath given to us eternal life," John wrote, "and this life is in his Son" (John 5:11). "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36). Jesus himself said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

God hath blessed us with "All spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). These spiritual blessings include the fellowship we have with God (1 John 1:3), the love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts (Rom. 5:5), the joy unspeakable and full of glory that comes by love and faith (1 Peter 1:8), the peace of God which passeth understanding (Phil. 4:7), the love of the brethren (1 John 3:14), and all the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). These blessings are eternal in nature and they constitute the eternal qualities of our spiritual life in Christ.

Someday we will physically die and leave all our temporal earthly blessings behind, but the eternal spiritual blessings we have in Christ will remain ours in eternity. This is what Jesus was speaking of when he said to Martha, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:26); and, this is what Paul was writing about when he wrote in 1 Timothy 4:8, "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

Copied from "*Seek The Old Paths*"

## There Is Hope!

The Bible says that the God of heaven is "the God of hope" (Romans 15:13). As long as this old world still stands, since the God of hope is eternal, mankind will have an opportunity to turn to Him for help and hope.

Because God is, **there is hope for our nation!** The real hope of America or any other nation is not in a strong economy or strong military. We all know that those two things bring with them some real plusses, but the truth is, our country's only genuine, lasting, reliable hope is to turn to the Lord in righteousness. Why? Hear the Bible's answer: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

Because God is, **there is hope for our families!** True hope is not found in bigger paychecks that buy nicer vehicles and bigger houses. It may sound simple, but the Bible way really does bring real hope to a family. What is that? For husbands and wives to love and respect one another (Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7), for kids to respect and obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1,2) & parents to teach their kids the way of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

Because God is, **there is hope for our soul's salvation!** God does not want even one person to be lost (2 Peter 3:9). So, what has God done? He gave us the gospel of hope (Colossians 1:23), He sacrificed His only begotten Son (John 3:16), and prepared an eternal place of rest for the righteous. Real spiritual hope is available in Jesus, and no place else. Faithfully serving Jesus brings genuine hope – hope for our own soul, hope for our family, and hope for our nation. by Ron Hall

## What Does Baptism Do?

The denominational world says that baptism has nothing to do with our salvation, but let's see what the Bible says. Notice that it is baptism that puts us **into Christ** so that we can be saved. Galatians 3:27 says, "For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**" Baptism is the only way a person can get **into Christ**. The preposition **into** indicates a change of relationship. You can search from the front to the back of your Bible, and you will find no other way to get into Christ except by being baptized into Christ. What is the advantage of being baptized into Christ?

Ephesians 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing** in heavenly places **in Christ.**" This verse tells us that every spiritual blessing is located in Christ. Only those who are in Christ can enjoy these spiritual blessings.

We read in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone **is in Christ, he is a new creation:** old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." If one is in Christ, he has become a new creation. This is how we are born again.

The Apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:10, "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect that they also may obtain the **salvation which is in Christ Jesus,** with eternal glory." Here we see that salvation is located in Christ, and for one to be eligible for salvation, he must be in Christ. It will be a horrible thing for a person, who thinks he is saved, when he stands before the Lord on the Day of Judgment, if he is still outside of Christ. He will have no salvation. He will be lost eternally in Hell.

In 1 John 5:11 we read, "And this is the testimony, that God has given us eternal life, and **this life is in His Son.**" Only those who have been baptized to be saved are in Christ and have the promise of eternal life. Those who are outside of Christ have no promise of eternal life but are lost. Author Unknown

# NEWS AND NOTES

**“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)  
Remember in Prayer:**

*Jim Johnson* has been diagnosed with cancer of the bone marrow. He is scheduled for a stem cell transplant in late October in Memphis and will begin chemotherapy treatments after that.

*Nicole Nelson* is in St. Bernards, Room 2235, undergoing treatments to remove fluids. Doctors are monitoring the effect the medicines are having on her kidneys.

*Darlene Felts* is at home now but is still having issues with her sugar.

**Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.  
Please update us if needed.**

**Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.  
Carroll & Myra Morris**

### In Other News:

*Sympathy is extended to Stacy Mosley in the passing of her uncle, Jerry Turner.* His memorial service was Thursday.

*Bible classes for 2 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are postponed till further notice.*

### Those Privileged To Serve August 9, 2020

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten  
Opening Prayer: Randy Oden  
Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson  
Bible Reading: Logan Snyder  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Scottie Blanchard  
Stacy Eddleman Barry Roush  
David Loggins Jerry Dodson  
Tom Carner Gerald George

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jody Pickens

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten  
Opening Prayer: Hal Baugh  
Closing Prayer: Ryan Manley  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

August 12, 2020  
Song Leader: Mark Wooten  
Opening Prayer: Jimmy Powell  
Closing Prayer: Hillard Holcomb

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

August 12, 2020  
Jason Garland

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of August 2, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	57
Sunday AM Worship	99
Sunday PM Worship	92
Wednesday Bible Study	67
Contribution	\$5725

**“A brother offended is  
harder to be won than a  
strong city: and their  
contentions are like the  
bars of a castle.”**

*Proverbs 18:19*

# The Friend of Truth



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## KeeNotes

It was a very short but pleasant time that Martha and I took to get away for a few days. We delivered a bed and chest to Emily and were there for her birthday, and we were able to spend a couple of days visiting Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Martha and I always enjoy visiting Cades Cove and the Little Pigeon River, maybe because both are free?!? Not as much wildlife and far too much rain and thunderstorms for our liking, but still refreshing. Thanks to Hal and J. L. who filled in while I was gone.

I hope you are making a list of all the things you want to do as soon as this virus is behind us. I also encourage you to be making a list of all the folks you want to visit and encourage even now in their daily walk with Jesus. I know that we often get into habits and it does not take so long for them to become ingrained in our daily walk. May we never become complacent or satisfied with things as they have become over these months.

Who all do I know who have been suffering and in need of our company? When the hospitals and nursing homes are open to visitors, let us all do what we can to encourage those who are residents and patients. Let us be ready, the very moment we can, to enter and see our loved ones and brethren again. But do not let us think that because we are restricted in some ways that we cannot be using the means available now to do good. Send a card, make a phone call, stop and leave something on the doorstep to remind our homebound brethren that they have not been forgotten.

Then also remember those who have and are suffering hardships with sickness and death that have come knocking at their doors. These are trying times, but each Christian must be looking for ways to help our brethren through them. For those who are sick and bereaved, let us all do what we can to ease our brethren through difficult days. Open our eyes and our hearts to ways we can help.

Finally, let us remember who we are and never forget we are children of the King and children of God. Let us keep letting our lights shine.

#### SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden  
Jody Pickens

#### DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Marshall Lands  
Mark Wooten

#### EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

#### MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes  
Samrit Kammanee  
Arnold Kelley  
Guyana, South America  
Warren, PA

#### SERVICES

##### SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

#### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear* the Word of God  
Romans 10:17

*Believe* the Word of God  
John 8:24

*Repent* of your sins  
Luke 13:3

*Confess* your faith in Jesus  
as the Son of God  
Romans 10:9,10

*Be Baptized* for the  
remission of your sins  
Acts 2:38

*Live faithfully*  
Revelation 2:10

*“Where there is no vision,  
the people perish...”*  
Proverbs 29:18

*God Give Us 2020 Vision  
in 2020*