

What the Bible Actually Says:
Man and Eternal Life

What Is Eternal Life?

[Tom's Site](#)

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What Is Eternal Life?

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WTBAS: What is eternal life?

It's About Life

- The term being defined is “life” not “eternal life”

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. (Matt 19:16-17)

- Everyone will receive eternal life in the sense of living forever

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28-29)

- Eternal life is also called everlasting life (i.e., a long... stretch of time)

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. (Matt 19:29)

WTBAS: What is eternal life?

Life Is Becoming Like Christ

- Eternal life is the kind of life lived by God and Christ:

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;
(John 5:26)

- Jesus is an example of an eternal life:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) (1John 1:1-2)

- We have eternal life when we know Christ intimately and thereby are living the kind of life that He lives:

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3)

WTBAS: What is eternal life?

Life Is Obtained via Sanctification of the Spirit

- Salvation comes via sanctification of the Spirit

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- We must work out our own salvation

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (Phil 2:11-12)

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. (1John 3:2-3)

WTBAS: What is eternal life?

Life Is Fully Realized in the Next World

- Eternal life will be fully realized in the world to come:

Mark 10:28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. 31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first. (Mark 10:28-31; see also Luke 18:28-30)

- The learning/growth process must be completed to be an eternal life:

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Mark 13:13; see also Matthew 24:13)

- It is possible that some who have realized the work of the Spirit in their lives may turn away and be lost:

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. (Heb 6:4-6)

Commentary

Once Saved, Always Saved?

- Some teach that you
 - Are saved at your acceptance of Christ
 - Cannot lose your salvation
 - “[Once Saved; Always Saved](#)” is a tagline
- This is particularly problematic
 - It can give people a false sense of security
 - It can reduce motivation to work and endure
 - Some call it a “[dangerous](#)” doctrine
 - It denies what the Bible actually says

WTBAS: What is eternal life?

Conclusion

- It's about life
- Life is becoming like Christ
- Life is obtained via sanctification of the Spirit
- Life is fully realized in the next world