

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

June 4, 2017

## ETERNAL LIFE

As I handed a man a rock, I said, “This rock was here thousands of years before you were born, and unless something happens, it will be around a long time after you die. It is not eternal, but we will call it “everlasting rock.” You now have “everlasting rock.” If you give this rock away, it will still be “everlasting rock,” but you will no longer possess it because you gave it away.”

For some reason many people view eternal life as something that began within themselves, and conclude that it would not truly be eternal life if they could ever lose it. Nothing could be further from the truth. Eternal life is the life of God. It has always existed and it always will exist. When the apostle John wrote of Jesus, he said, *“All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. IN HIM WAS LIFE; and the life was the light of men.”* John 1:3-4. The eternal life of God that was from the beginning became flesh and walked among men. This eternal life shined out of him and shed light on everything he came in contact with.

You can see eternal life. John tells us *“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;”* 1 John 1:2. Until Jesus Christ walked upon earth, no one since Adam had ever seen eternal life, but this eternal life was *“now made manifest*

*by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT through the gospel.”* II Timothy 1:10. Eternal life illuminates from wherever it is found. John not only saw it, but he possessed it and it was seen everywhere he went.

Jesus said *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* John 10:10. What is sometimes missed in this statement is the truth that no one would have life at all if Jesus had not come. Eternal existence is not eternal life. Without Christ, you may walk, breath, marry, and even exist forever, but that is not life. If you understand this truth, then you know that “abundant life” is not a plentiful lifestyle. If that were true, the unbelieving wealthy person of this world already has abundant life ...without Christ. Abundant life is the unsearchable riches of Christ that spring up within God’s children to fill every part of our being. This overflowing life of God will also flow out to all those we come in contact with.

Eternal life and death do not co-exist, but through Christ we *“have passed from death unto life”* John 5:24. John said, *“Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him”* I John 3:15. If we believe the word of God, we know that eternal life is not in a murderer nor in anyone in whom hatred dwells.

Eternal life is so evident where it is present that John tells us it is the proof that someone truly believes God. He says, *“And this is the record (evidence), that God hath given to us, eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”* I John 5:11-12. What is the evidence that a

person has believed the truth? It is the eternal life of God within them that shines out of them to everyone around. Yet John is clear that a person has eternal life only as they have the Son of God. For *“this life is in His Son.”* Apart from the Son, no one has eternal life.

There seems to be a disconnect in the minds of many people between salvation and the Savior. Salvation, or eternal life, is viewed as a possession, a privilege, or a prize that God gives someone when they come to Jesus. But now that they have received this possession, do they really need Jesus anymore? The result becomes that many people live their lives as though they can ignore Christ, have no love for Him, and see no necessity to serve or obey Him. The attitude seems to express that they believe because they already have eternal life, they no longer need the Savior. Those who harbor such a thought do not know where eternal life exists. It is only found and possessed in Christ Jesus. Abandon the Savior and you have abandoned eternal life because *“this life is in His Son.”* Without him no one has any life at all.