

Emmaus Correspondence School
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Eternal Life

Eternal life? It is difficult for human beings to understand, because finite reasoning covers a beginning and an ending. Human rationalization covers birth and death—a beginning and an ending. But the Scriptures abundantly relate “much more”—“It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27).

The Greek word for “eternal” and “everlasting” is *aionion*, and while it is true that various combinations of the word may be translated “far the age” or “unto the ages” or “unto the ages of the ages”, it is the only way in Greek to say “eternal” or “everlasting.” That it stands for endlessness is apparent from the fact that it is the word used for the being and glory of God, which without controversy is endless. The same word is also used for the security of the believer in Christ, and for the punishment of the lost.

Romans 6:23 tells that for the believer “the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(1) This life is called “eternal,” because it is from eternity which is past to eternity which is to come—it is the life of God revealed in Jesus Christ, who is God. (Jn 1:4; 5:26; 1 Jn 1:1, 2).

(2) This life of God, which was revealed in Christ, is imparted in a new birth by the Holy Spirit, acting upon the Word of God, to every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 3:3-15).

(3) The life thus imparted is not a new life except in the sense of human possession: it is still “that which was from the beginning.” But the recipient is a new creation (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15).

(4) The life of God which is in the believer is an un severed part of the Vine and branches, Head and members (Jn 15:1-5; 1 Cor 6:17; 12:12-14; Gal 2:20; Col 1:27; 3:3, 4; 1 Jn 5:11, 12).

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Cor 5:17), he is made “the righteousness of God” in Christ (2 Cor 5:21). To those who believe on Christ’s name, God gives the power to become children of God (Jn 1:12), accomplished by the miracle of the new birth (Jn 3:5/Ti 3:5; 3:5-7; Rom 8:16, 17) and they receive eternal life (Rom 6:23).