

**DO YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?
(1 John 5:11-13)**

I. Notice the present God gives (vs 11a).

- A. John reveals to us that God has given to these readers, and. by implication, can give to us, eternal life..
- B. What is meant by eternal life?
- C. I believe it encompasses the present and the future.
- D. If you remember, John began this letter by referring to Jesus as “that eternal life.”
 - 1. 5:20 describes for us eternal life as knowing Him who is true and being in Him who is true, which is Jesus.
 - 2. This leads me to believe that John uses the phrase “eternal life” the same way Jesus did in John 17:3.
- E. There, Jesus used it to show a quality of life that comes from having a true, meaningful relationship with the Godhead.
 - 1. This relationship begins when we pass from death unto life (1 John 3:14-15).
 - 2. This comes from knowing God and Christ - which means a close personal relationship with deity through living by what deity commands through the word.
- F. Therefore, those that know deity here on earth have a life that is described as “eternal” here on earth, also described by Jesus as an “abundant life.”
- G. Also, as long as we possess that eternal life here on earth, we have it in promise for the future.
 - 1. If we die living the eternal, or abundant, life here on earth, God has promised that heaven will be our home eternally.
 - 2. Therefore, we have eternal life in the present as well as the future.
- H. This is a present from God because it is not something that we have earned by our own merit, but because God has given the Christ for us by His grace.

II. The place to receive the present (vs. 11b-12).

- A. Where does one receive this present?
- B. Only in Christ.
 - 1. Surely John remembered the words of Jesus the night before His death - “I am the way, the truth, and the life...”
 - 2. Only in Christ can one have this abundant life and the promise of life eternal in heaven.
- C. If one wants this life, one must be in Christ to obtain it.
 - 1. The present of Jesus has been given, now one must accept the present.
 - 2. One does this by placing himself in Christ.
 - 3. This is done through baptism.
 - 4. This translates us into the kingdom of Christ according to Paul (Colossians 1:13).
- D. If we have the relationship with deity then we have this life.

1. This relationship is maintained by our leading lives of faithfulness to God.
 2. We do His will and He bestows on us the spiritual blessings we need to have eternal life.
 3. In this sense, this eternal life is conditional.
 4. If we fail to lead the lives of faithfulness we should, we lose the spiritual blessings we need to have eternal life.
 5. It is based on our continued faithfulness.
- E. If we are outside of Christ or have left Christ, we do not have this eternal life.
1. Our lives will be empty without Christ.
 2. We have all been there at some point, or points, in our lives.
 3. We have been outside of Christ and until we came to or came back to Christ our lives were not lived abundantly, something was missing.
- F. The only place to receive the present of eternal life from God is in Jesus Christ.

III. The promise to those in the right place (vs 13).

- A. This verse contains John's purpose for writing this letter.
- B. The Gnostics had been attacking belief in Jesus and John wanted his readers to know that if they believed in Jesus, with all that belief entails, they had eternal life.
- C. This is the promise - that if we believe in Jesus, belief is a part of the whole of what is meant, then we can know we have eternal life.
- D. There doesn't have to be doubt or worry about whether or not we are saved.
 1. We can know and have an abundant life on earth.
 2. We can know we have an eternal home in heaven.
- E. We can know because God has promised it to those who believe and obey the commands of Jesus.
- F. The name of Jesus refers to all that makes up Christ, His deity, humanity, atonement all those things that make up Jesus.