

⑫ Gospel of John

INTRODUCTION | Eternal Life

Let's think about what it means for us to walk through life having received eternal life. First, we need to turn our hearts and lives towards God and focus on Him. We are so easily thrown off balance by the reactions and opinions of the people around us. Second, let's put our trust in the power of the amazing gospel that God, through Jesus, has given us. Third, let's look at our lives from the perspective of eternity.

SCRIPTURE | John 5:19-30

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. 22 The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. 30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

QUESTIONS |

1: (v. 19-23) What does Jesus say about his relationship with God the Father? How do you think Jesus' awareness of his own position was an encouragement to him when faced with grim circumstances? (ref: John 5:18)

2: If, like Jesus, we have God as our Father, what are the ways in which we might benefit and how might we be able to receive these benefits? (ref: Romans 5:1-5)

3: (v. 24) What kind of special privileges are given to those who listen to the words of Jesus and believe in God, who sent him? Explain in your own words.

4: Jesus frequently uses the phrase "truly, truly" to express the godly authority of his words. However, there are many times when it is hard for us to accept what Jesus says. What are the obstacles that prevent us from believing that "whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life"?

5: (v. 25-30) What is being emphasized in the sentence immediately following the 3rd "truly, truly"? What is the hope contained here in this section? (ref: Rev 21:1-4)

6: Verse 24 states that the person who believes already has "eternal life. . . does not come into judgment . . . [and] has passed from death to life". Verse 29 warns us about the future to come where "those who have done good [go] to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil [go] to the resurrection of judgment". With this in mind, how should we live our lives?

Reading (Reference) |

John 5:18

This is why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Revelation 21:1-4

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Prayers |

Give thanks that, because of God the Father and Jesus the Son, we have been given eternal life, have been spared from judgment, and have passed from death to life. Turn our hearts towards the God of grace, believe in the gospel of Christ and pray that we will be able to keep holding on this hope for the future.

Examine your hearts and determine if there is something that prevents you from turning to God. Let's repent. Even though we listen to the gospel of Jesus, we aren't able to give our lives up to the plans of God and His heart. Why is this so? Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will help us humble ourselves.

UPCOMING EVENTS | MARCH

Grace City gospel choir (9th), Leaders training (9th)
University students' volunteer trip to Ishinomaki (9th-12th)
Lunchtime meetings (11th@Marunouchi, 12th@Otemachi) (17th@Akasaka, 18th@Kasumigaseki, 19th@Otemachi)
Membership class (15th)
Cross Roads Bible Study (22nd)