

THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE (aionios zoe)

Paul opens his epistle to Titus and the Cretans with the importance of the believer's confidence of eternal life. **"In the hope of eternal life which, God, who can not lie, promised long ago."**

This verse can be studied by the following three homiletical points.

- Eternal Life – confidence expectation (hope / elpis)
- Essence of God – cannot lie (veracity / pseudēs)
- Eternity past – conference of eternal life (promised long ago / pro chronos aionios)

"Christ said, 'I am come that they might have life and they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10). This life is nothing less than 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Col.1:27)." (Unger, pg.326)

This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of Hope of Eternal Life.
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1. Adamic man is born minus eternal life due to the fall of Adam (Gen.2: 17).

Therefore, Adamic man is born into the world with spiritual death (Rom.5:12). "For as **in Adam** (all die, so **in Christ** all will be made alive." (1 Cor.15:22/ **retroactive positional truth**)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom.6:23)

Eternal life must not be confused with natural life or endless existence. "It is not to be confused with mere endless existence, which all persons possess, saved as well as unsaved." (Unger, pg.326)

Natural or human life is subject to physical death. "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." (Heb.9:27)

2. Under the Old covenant, eternal life was part of messianic eschatology of inheritance (Dan.12: 2; Matt.25: 46; John 5:39-40; Acts 3:15).

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25; 18:18/ Pharisaical legalism)

"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself." (John 5:26)

"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." (John 5:28-29)

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25)

3. Eternal life was a possession of His incarnation and part of the New Covenant soteriology of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-4, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 2 Tim.1:10; 1 John 1:1-4).

"The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us." (1 John 1:2)

“He is called ‘ the life’ because He is the living One who has life in Himself (see John 11:25; 14:6). He is also the source of life and sovereign over life (5:11). The letter begins and ends (5:20) with the theme of eternal life.” (NIV, 1 John 1:2)

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:11-12) (John 6:33, 35, 58)

“He is the true God and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20)

4. Eternal life is imputed by the grace of God at the moment a person believes that Jesus Christ died for his sins, was buried and raised from the dead (John 5:24; 17:2-3; Acts 3:15; 13:46-48; Rom.5: 10, 21).

“Everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. For God who loved the world that He gave His Son and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:15-16)

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains upon Him.” (John 3:36)

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31)

Therefore eternal life is not something the church age believer contemplates as a future inheritance. It is a present and personal possession “And this is what He promised us – eternal life.” (1John 2:25)

“A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the beginning of time.” (Titus 1:2)

5. Eternal life is the imparting of divine life to a regenerated human life that had previously been spiritually dead (2 Pet.1: 3-4; Titus 3:4-7; 2 Cor.4: 16-18).

In the parable of the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18), Jesus talked about the enemy of the sheep of the good shepherd (10:1,5,8, 10,12-13). Jesus explained what it meant for Him to be the Good Shepherd (10:6-18). Jesus explained, “The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have **life, and might have it abundantly.**” (10:10)

6. Eternal life is given to every church age believer at the moment of salvation by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-7; 1 John 2:15-16; Rom.6: 22-23; 2 Tim.2: 10; John 4:14; 6:63; 7:37-39; Rom.8: 9; Gal.6: 8).

7. The believer’s assurance of the possession of eternal life comes from faith in the word of God regarding the subject (John 5:39-40; 6:68; 20:31; 1 John 2:25; 5:13; 20; Phil.2:16).

**Security of eternal life is the responsibility of God not the believer
(John 4:14; 5:26; 10:28-30; 1 John 5:11-13, 20).**