

IN NO OTHER ETERNAL LIFE
Ac.4:10-12; Eph.1:3
Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Use #1 through #5 of first lesson in the series.
2. Use “B” of first lesson: The meaning of the frequently used and highly significant phrase “in Christ” or “in Christ Jesus”.
3. Now, the fifth lesson on the theme “**IN NO OTHER**”.

II. DISCUSSION

G. IN JESUS CHRIST, AND IN NO OTHER, WE HAVE FUTURE SALVATION OR ETERNAL LIFE OR EVERLASTING SALVATION IN HEAVEN WITH GOD.

1. Meaning of terms.
 - a. Eternal or everlasting (AIONIOS, ahee-o’-nee-os, Strong #166)
 - (1) “Age-lasting” perpetual: - eternal, forever, everlasting
 - (2) It lays stress upon permanence and unchangeableness
 - (3) Eternal and everlasting are translations of the same original Greek word.
 - (4) W. E. Vine, II, 43: “The predominant meaning of AIONOIS (eternal)...may be seen in 2Cor.4:18 where it is set in contrast with ‘temporal’ (lit. ‘for a season’), and in Phlm. 15.”
 - (5) According to Rom.2:7, eternal life is “glory, honor and immortality.” Cf. 1Cor.15:51-53.
 - b. Eternal life is future salvation; salvation in the world to come. SALVATION – SOTERIA, so-tay-ree’-ah, Strong #4491.
 - (1) 1Pet.1:
 - (a) V.3: “unto a lively (living) hope”
 - (b) V.4: “reserved in heaven”
 - (c) V.5: “unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”
 - (d) V.9: “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”
 - (2) Rom.13:11: “...now is your salvation nearer than when you believed.”

- (3) Mk.10:29,30, followers of the Lord “shall receive an hundredfold now in this time...and in the world to come eternal life.” Cf. 1Th.5:8; Tit.1:2; 3:7; 1Jno.2:24,25.
2. The word eternal is used of persons and things which are in their nature endless; as, for example:
 - a. Of God, Rom.16:26.
 - b. Of God’s power, 1Tim.6:16.
 - c. Of his glory, 1Pet.5:10.
 - d. Of the Holy Spirit, Heb.9:14.
 - e. Of the redemption effected by Christ, Heb.9:12.
 - f. Of the consequent salvation of men, Heb.5:9.
 - g. Of the heavenly kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, 2Pet.1:11. Cf. Lk.1:33.
 - h. Of the life received by those who believe in Jesus, Jno.3:15.
 - i. Of the resurrection body, 2Cor.5:1, elsewhere said to be “immortal”, 1Cor.15:53, in which that life will be finally realized, Mt.25:46; Tit.1:2.
 - j. Of the final judgment of God, from which there is no appeal, Heb.6:2, and of the fire, which is one of its instruments, Mt.18:8; 25:41; Jude 7, and which is elsewhere said to be “unquenchable,” Mk.9:43.
 - k. Of the punishment with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power in 2Th.1:9, which shows that the punishment referred to is not temporal, nor temporary, but final, and, accordingly, the phraseology shows that its purpose is not remedial but retributive.
 3. Things we learn about it from a variety of passages.
 - a. In the O.T. the expression “eternal life” occurs only in Dan.12:2.
 - b. In the N.T. it is of frequent occurrence.
 - (1) The apostle Paul considers it as the supreme reward of well-doing (Rom.2:7; 1Tim.6:12,19; cf. Jno.5:28,29), the result of continually walking in holiness secured to us by Jesus Christ.
 - (a) The end (telos), Rom.6:22.
 - (b) The reward, Gal.6:8.
 - (c) The object of our faith, 1Tim.1:16; cf. 1Pet.1:9
 - (d) The object of God’s saving grace, Rom.5:21.

- (e) The object of our hope, Tit.1:2; 3:7; 4:3; Rom.8:24,25; cf. Jude 21.
- (2) It is synonymous with:
 - (a) The promise of life to come, 1Tim.4:8.
 - (b) The receiving of the incorruptible crown of righteousness, 1Cor.9:25; 2Tim.4:8; cf. 1Cor.15:50-54.
 - (c) The preservation unto the heavenly kingdom, 2Tim.4:18. cf. 2Pet.1:11; 1Pet.1:3-5.
 - (d) What Jesus calls “the crown of life” and inheritance “of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him,” Jas.1:12; 2:5.
 - (e) What Heb.4:9 says is the rest (eternal rest or Sabbath) to the people of God which remaineth.
- (3) Eternal life is the “gift of God in Jesus Christ our Lord,” Rom.6:23.
- (4) As the word of life, the One in whom is life, Jesus Christ has abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, Jno.1:1-4; Phil.2:16; 2Tim.1:10.
- c. Eternal life or future salvation:
 - (1) Is the sum of benefits and blessings which Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the 2nd Coming of Christ in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God,” Heb.9:27,28; 1Pet.1:3-5,9; 2Pet.1:5-11.
 - (2) Is the spiritual and eternal deliverance granted by God to those who accept his conditions...in the Lord Jesus, in whom alone it is to be obtained (Ac.2:12)...; for this purpose the gospel is the saving instrument (Rom.1:16; Eph.1:3).
 - (3) Is the future deliverance of believers at the 2nd Coming of Christ for his saints, a salvation which is the object of their confident hope, e.g., Rom.13:11; 1Th.5:8,9, where salvation is assured to them, as being deliverance from the wrath of God destined to be executed upon the ungodly at the end of this age (see 1Th.1:10); 2Th.2:13,14; Heb.1:14; 9:27,28; 1Pet.1:3-5,9; 2Pet.3:15.

- (4) Is inclusively, to sum up all the blessings bestowed by God on men in Christ through the Holy Spirit, Heb.5:9; 1Pet.1:9-12; 1Cor.6:11.
- (5) Is metaphorically described as a helmet, Eph.6:17.
- d. Life eternal and everlasting punishment are of equal duration, Mt.25:46.
- e. Sin places one in danger of eternal damnation, Mk.3:29.
- f. Eternal life or life everlasting is a promise to be received in the world to come and thus is that for which believers now hope, Mk.10:29,30; Lk.18:30; cf. 1Tim.4:8; Tit.1:2; 1Jno.2:24,25; cf. Rom.8:24,25.
- g. Only Jesus has the words of eternal life (Jno.6:66-68) and he gives eternal life (Jno.17:2; 5:26).
- h. Jesus' sheep hear (continue to hear) his voice, believe on him and follow him and he gives them eternal life, Jno.10:26-28.
- i. To know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom the Father has sent is eternal life, Jno.17:3.
- j. One can and some did judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life, Ac.13:46.
- k. God will render eternal life only to those who seek it, or are determined to obtain it, Rom.2:6,7; Ac.13:46,48; Jno.1:11,12.
- (1) "As many as were ordained to eternal life," i.e., as many of them as were 'determined' or were 'disposed' for, or as many as were determined to obtain eternal life believed – these were the ones who believed. Cf. the rich ruler in Mk.10:17-22; the unbelieving Pharisees.
- l. Sin hath reigned unto death, but grace (God's grace) reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord, Rom.5:21.
- m. "Being made free from sin, and become servants of God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life," which is God's gift through Jesus Christ, whereas "when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness," and the fruit you had then in those things, where of you are not ashamed, brought the wages of sin, which is eternal death, Rom.6:20-26.

- n. To reap everlasting life one must sow to the Spirit, not the flesh, Gal.6:8.
 - o. Things eternal are things we do not now see, but that for which we hope, 2Cor.4:18; Tit.1:2; Rom.8:24,25.
 - p. The resurrected body of the believer is a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, 2Cor.5:1.
 - q. To lay hold on eternal life we must fight the good fight of faith, and do that which is necessary to laying hold on eternal life, 1Tim.6:12.
 - r. Jesus by his blood has obtained eternal redemption for obedient believers, Heb.9:12.
 - s. God gives eternal life in his Son, whom we must have by faith in order to have eternal life, 1Jno.5:11-13,20.
4. Obtaining eternal life in Jesus Christ is conditional, Mt.16:24,25; Mk.10:17-22; Lk.10:25-37; Mt.25:41-46; Jno.3:15,16-18,36; 5:24,28,29; 5:39,40; 6:27,40,47; Jno.12:48; Heb.5:8,9; Jude 21; Cf. Gal.6:8,9; 1Tim.1:16; 2Pet.1:5-11.