

## Eternal Life

### Introduction:

- A. The great promise that we have in Christ is eternal life. - John 10:27-28
  - B. Calvinists teach the present possession of eternal life by Christians as a basis for the doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints
  - C. Some brethren teach eternal life is presently possessed.
  - D. When do Christians come into actual possession of eternal life?
- I. What is “eternal life”?
- A. “eternal”: 1. *without beginning or end, that which always has been and always will be....* 2. *without beginning....* 3. *without end, never to cease. everlasting.... gives prominence to the immeasurableness of eternity...* (Thayer. 20-21).
  - B. “life”
    - 1. Spiritual life is more than existence. - John 5:28-29
    - 2. It is the opposite of spiritual death. - 1 John 3:14
    - 3. Spiritual death is the result of separation from God’s fellowship. - Genesis 2:16-17; 5:4-5; 3:22-24; James 2:26; Isaiah 59:1-2
    - 4. Spiritual life is fellowship with God. - 1 John 1:3; 5:12
  - C. Thus, eternal life is fellowship with God which is endless in duration.
- II. arguments which demonstrate eternal life is a future possession
- A. Any passage which demonstrates the possibility of apostasy proves eternal life is a future possession. - e.g., Galatians 5:4
  - B. Many passages plainly teach it is a future possession. - Matthew 25:46; Mark 10:30; Luke 18:30; John 12:25; Romans 2:6-7; 6:22
  - C. We have eternal life in hope. - Titus 1:2; 3:7; Romans 8:24-25
- III. Do some passages teach the present possession of eternal life? - John 3:15-16,36; 5:24; 6:47,54; 10:28; 1 John 5:11-13
- A. How had God made Abraham a father of many nations? - Genesis 17:5 (in promise)
  - B. How had God given Joshua Jericho? (right of inheritance)
  - C. How had a child been born? - Isaiah 9:6 (promise)
  - D. How had Christ shed His blood? - Matthew 26:28 (promise)
- IV. Some brethren argue that “eternal life” refers to quality, not quantity, and is presently possessed but can be forfeited. - e.g., a gold coin may be long lasting but not possessed very long
- A. Life is a relationship, not an object to be carried in one’s pocket.
  - B. “Life” refers to quality; “eternal” to quantity.
  - C. If eternal life can be forfeited now, why not in heaven? - Matthew 25:46; cf. Luke 16:26
  - D. If eternal life can be lost, what about eternal destruction? - Matthew 25:46
  - E. If eternal life can be forfeited, can God forfeit His eternal existence? - 1 Timothy 1:17
  - F. To actually “have” eternal life is to “inherit” it. - Matthew 19:17; Mark 10:17
- Conclusion:
- A. Christians presently possess life, fellowship with God, which can be broken by sin. - Romans 6:11
  - B. We live in hope of eternal life, endless fellowship with God, which can never be terminated. - Romans 6:22-23
  - C. Do you have this life and this hope?