

Scripture Reference: 1 John 5

Date: June 1, 2014

Title: "Living a Life of Eternity"

Focus: What it means to experience eternal life (John Series 5 of 7)

Why is the body and blood of Jesus so important?

John sums it up as he prepares to close out his letter.

vv. 1-12; “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God”

John said earlier in the letter (1 John 3:14) that whoever believes Jesus is the Christ passes from death unto life. This is why Jesus is so important.

But, keep in mind, belief is not *to know*. This to have a belief *about* Jesus. Instead, people need to have *faith* in Him.

Belief about Jesus is not enough to live eternal life. Faith in Him is essential for eternal life.

Faith is necessary because being in relationship with God is not about the acceptance of facts and dogma. Instead, it is a call to follow Jesus as an example of one in relationship with God.

There are things about being a follower of Jesus that will exceed human intellect. There are aspects of being a disciple of God that surpass natural ability. Faith is essential during these times.

vv. 5-11; "Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son."

Coming into relationship with God begins with Faith, for people are called to believe that God has raised Christ from the dead.

In summarizing his preceding comments, John says one in relationship, possessing eternal life, loves God and lives according to His commandments.

vv. 2-3; "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."

When John says, "His commandments are not burdensome," he's not saying there will be no struggle. But, those in possession of eternal life are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

If trying to live like God is a burden, you're doing it in your own accord.

v. 12; "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."

vv. 13-21; "These things I have written to you . . . that you may know that you have eternal life."

John wrote so *believers* would be informed about eternal life.

Living eternal life is nothing like the natural life. Matter of fact, living in faith is counter intuitive to one's natural inclinations.

Since eternal life entails the nature of God living in a person, there is the inner testimony of His Spirit. This is what He is speaking about in vv. 14-15.

vv. 14-15; "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

Eternal Life is not about trying to appease God, but about living in relationship with Him. The believer can speak with Him, know that He hears, and responds.

John closes his letter with the admonition to pray for those who have eternal life. Pray they will understand the nature of the life they live.

Believers sin, of this there is no doubt.

1 John 1:8-10; *"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."*

Probably the greatest predisposition to sin starts with not understanding the nature of eternal life.

Prayers are to be offered for understanding of the life they live. That they will live in the nature and power of God and not in their own ability and strength, which leads to sin.

John then asks them not to pray that nonbelievers would better understand eternal life (v. 16b).

These people do not need to understand eternal life, as if they could. They need to come to understand they are sinners, under condemnation, and in need of Jesus as the sacrifice for their sin.

The Last 18 Inches

Nothing previously experienced prepares a person for living the new quality of life offered by God.

What is needed is acclimation to this new life and it begins with the transformation of how we think about eternal life.

Are you guilty of continuing to live as you have, only now putting a Christian spin to it? Or, are you embarking on a life completely different than what you experienced before?