

**THAT YOU MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE
PART ONE
PREACHING THROUGH THE BIBLE: JOHN**

John 17:1-3; 20:30-31 (NASV)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. THREE KEY JOHANNINE TEXTS RELATED TO SALVATION

A. TO PERSUADE US—20:30-31

Jn 20:30-31—Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

1. TO PERSUADE READERS TO BELIEVE IN JESUS AS DIVINE SAVIOR
2. AND THEREFORE GUARANTEE THAT WE HAVE LIFE

B. TO ASSURE US—I Jn 5:13

1. THE MOST SUCCINCT TEXT—FOUND IN HIS FIRST LETTER
2. CONCEPT EXPRESSED IN GOSPEL—COVERED BELOW

I Jn 5:13—These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

3. FOR THOSE WHO *ALREADY* BELIEVE
4. SO WE ARE CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE LIFE—PROMISED IN GOSPEL
5. TO IDENTIFY THE KIND OF LIFE—IT IS ETERNAL

C. TO DEFINE ETERNAL LIFE

1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

1. ETERNAL LIFE—IS KNOWING GOD AND JESUS CHRIST
2. ETERNAL LIFE—IS NOT

- a. Not knowing *about* them
 - b. Not just affirming/believing knowledge about them
3. ETERNAL LIFE—IS
- a. Relationship with God
 - b. Being acquainted with Him on personal and intimate level

III. HOW TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE—Jn 20:30-31

A. THOSE WHO BELIEVE HAVE LIFE

1. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE?

- a. It is *not* belief
 - 1. Belief is the conduit—not the cause/source
 - 2. Belief is the condition—those who *are believing*
- b. The source—is the name of Jesus
 - 1. Identification with the Person and His action—with His name
 - 2. His name is **Jesus**—which means **Savior**
 - 3. Therefore—believing we have a/the Savior—results in life

2. WHAT KIND OF SAVIOR?

- a. Believing that Jesus is **the** Christ
 - 1. Not just *any* supposed ‘savior’
 - 2. Phrasing of words—highlights specificity

ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ

the Jesus is **the** Christ **the** son [of] **the** God

3. Uniqueness of His association and proximity and communion with God the Father

- a. Only one witness has resided with God—who knows and can deliver His message

Jn 3:11, 13—*Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony . . . No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.*

- b. Only one who has seen God—and knows Him and His ways

Jn 6:46-48—*Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the one who is from God; He has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I AM the bread of life.*

- c. So—[only] Jesus could see what the Father was doing—and follow Him perfectly

Jn 5:19-20—*Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that he Himself is doing, and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.*

- b. Instead—He is the *one and only* **Christ**—**the** Messiah

1. The one **promised** by God—to deliver/save His people

- Most succinctly described by Jesus Himself—in Nazareth

Lk 4:18-19 [Is 61:1-2]—*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.*

2. The one **identified** with the **I AM** deliverer in the OT

- a. Claimed by Jesus

- I AM—*I who speak to you am He*—to the Samaritan woman—**chapter 4**

- b. Further defined by Jesus

- Bread of Life—**chapter 6**
- Light of the world—**chapter 8**
- Before Abraham—**chapter 8**
- Door—**chapter 10**
- Good Shepherd—**chapter 10**
- Resurrection and Life—**chapter 11**
- Way, Truth, and Life—**chapter 14**
- True Vine—**chapter 15**

3. The one **sent** by God—to accomplish His will

Jn 7:28-29—*Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me.*

4. The one whose **willed** as God willed—He perfectly reflected God’s will

Jn 4:34—*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.*

Jn 5:30—*I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

5. The one who **accomplished** what the Father sent Him to do

a. Look at the miracles

1. This is the context of **John 20:31b**

Jn 20:30-31a—*Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; the **these** [miracles] have been written so that you may believe . . .*

2. Explicitly stated by Jesus

Jn 10:37-38—*If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.*

6. Affirmed/asserted in Jesus' prayer to the Father

17:4-5—*I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself with the glory which I had with you before the world was.*

B. NOT JUST 'LIFE'—BUT ETERNAL LIFE

1. STATED AS JOHN'S PURPOSE IN WRITING—HIS FIRST LETTER

I Jn 5:13—*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

2. LINKED BY THE GOSPEL TO OUR BELIEF

a. John's testimony

3:35-36—*The Father loves the son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the son will not see life, but the wrath of god abides on him.*

b. Jesus' promise

5:24—*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.*

IV. WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE

1. IT IS KNOWING

- Not status—or position—or activity—or location
- Not knowledge about 'something'—not dogmatic or theoretical
- But relationship—knowing the Persons [of salvation]
- **γινωσκω** = knowing intimately—personally

a. Not **οιδα**—to be aware

b. Not **ειδο**—to behold—perceive—know how

c. Not **επισταμαι**—to understand

2. KNOWING TWO PERSONS—**Jn 17:3**

a. Knowing the **Father**—the only true God

b. And [knowing] **Jesus Christ**—whom the Father sent

3. TO KNOW CHRIST IS TO KNOW THE FATHER

a. The Son **reveals** the Father

Mt 11:27 [Lk 10:22]—*All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

b. Knowing Christ = knowing the Father—Jn 8:19

Jn 8:19—[Jesus said to the ‘Jews’]—*You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.*

c. Seeing Christ = seeing the Father

Jn 14:7-11—[Jesus said to the disciples]—*If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him. Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.*

4. WHY THIS IS SO—**HOW CAN JESUS SHOW US THE FATHER?**

a. Proof **existential**—by Jesus’ own testimony

Jn 10:30—*I and the Father are one.*

The DNA of Salvation—it is spiritually genetic!

b. Proof **visible**—by Jesus’ own testimony

Jn 14:9,11—*If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father*

c. Proof **eternal**—by dual testimony

1. From Jesus

17:5—*Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

2. Mirrors John’s testimony

1:1-5—*In the beginning was the Word . . . the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not comprehended it.*

d. Proof by **inheritance** of glory—the Father’s ‘will’ (testament)

1. Inheritance Dispensed

17:24—*Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see **My glory which You have given Me**, for you loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

2. Inheritance Revealed

1:14—*The Word became flesh and lived among us, and **we have beheld His glory**, even the glory of the only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

5. It is ‘**eternal**’

1. Endless—even more than everlasting (eschatological)

- Durative—in the future—it will not end
- Timeless—began in eternity—before the beginning

2. Certain

- Anchored in the eternal Being of the eternal I AM
- To know Him—is to be anchored in the timeless and immovable One

3. Permanent

- a. Not something we can lose (un-temporary)
- b. But secure—forever—in God’s hands—**Jn 10:27-30**

1. Security of the sheep with The Shepherd

Jn 10:27-28—*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*

2. Security with the Father—**doubly** secure

Jn 10:29—*My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and not one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.*

3. Securely anchored in Christ’s identity/unity with the Father

Jn 10:30—*I and the Father are one.*

- c. If we follow Christ—we too are in the Father with Christ
- d. We share the DNA of salvation from the Savior with the Father

V. SUMMARY

1. If we are believing in Christ—we have life
2. This life is eternal
3. Eternal life is knowing the Father and Jesus Christ
 - We **know** Christ by believing—trusting Him completely—surrendering to Him
 - We **show** we believe by following Him
 - By following Him we **know the Father**
 - Both the Father and the Son **hold us securely forever**