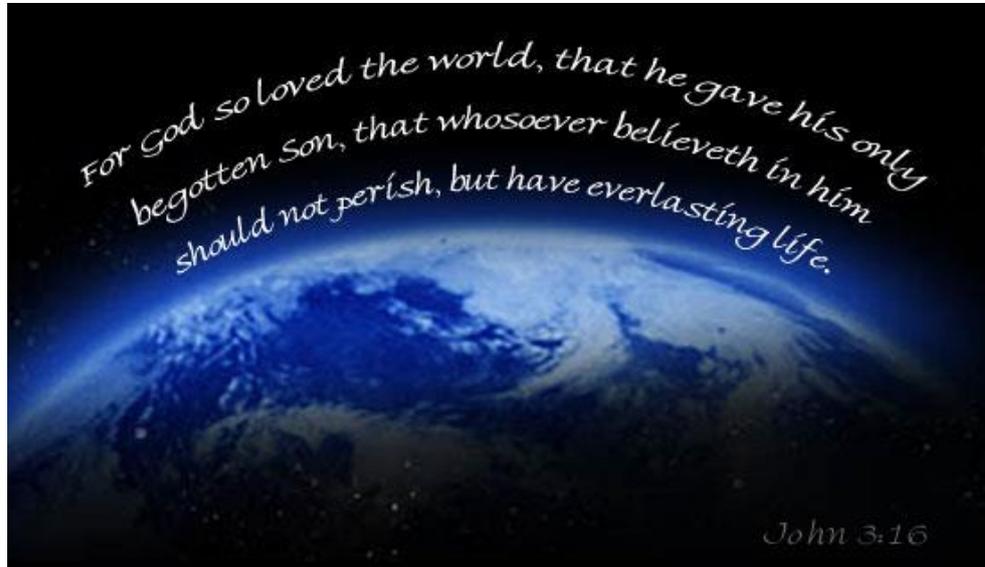


Do you have everlasting life?

How can we know that we have it?

God loves you!

Jesus Christ said about himself: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but



have eternal life." (John 3:16) He made many similar statements. Here are some of them:

"Truly, truly I tell all of you, the one who believes in me has eternal life!" John 6:47

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment,

but the righteous to eternal life." Matthew 25:46

"Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life." John 12:25

There are many other passages in the Bible that say the same, e.g. - "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11

Paul said to Timothy: "Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." 1 Tim 6:12

What do we need to do?

1 Admit that we are not perfect.

The Bible says:

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23

"There is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins." Ecclesiastes 7:20

2 There is a consequence of our sin:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

3 Jesus died to take the “wages” or punishment of our sin:

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6

4 What must we do?

On the Day of Pentecost, when the crowd who had shouted “crucify him” heard “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” They asked: ““Brothers, what shall we do?”(Acts 2:36-37). But we also are complicit in His death; Matthew Henry says: “Our sins were the thorns in Christ's head, the nails in his hands and feet, the spear in his side. He was delivered to death for our offences.”

The answer is the same today:

““Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

On that great day three thousand people were baptised and the Church was born. Will you join them?

Our choice

Eternal life is a free gift:

“For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.” Romans 5:16

“The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life” Revelation 22:17

We can't earn it and will never be able to say “well, I was a good person”: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.” Psalm 53:1

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken

us away.” Isaiah 64:6

Do it now!

One thing is certain, that one day we will die, and we never know when that will be. Make certain your eternal life by praying this prayer now:

“Lord Jesus Christ, I recognise that I am not a good person. I believe that you took my sin when you died on the cross. I turn away from everything that is wrong. Please come into my life and clean me. I give my life to you. Make me your child and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Amen”

If you have given your life to Jesus Christ you are now a child of God and have eternal life. What next?

1. Thank God for the free gift that has been graciously given to you!

When the lame man at the gate called Beautiful was healed, he went away “walking and leaping and praising God” Acts 3:8

2. Be baptised

Baptism is a command and is a declaration to men and angels that you have died from your old life and now belong to Jesus Christ:

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

When the Gentiles believed Peter exclaimed: “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.” Acts 10:47,48

3. Praise and worship God.

Just as God has given us all things richly to enjoy, so we also were made to give God pleasure:

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9

“Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe” Hebrews 12:28

4. Join with other Christians if you can.

The real proof that you have eternal life is that you want to be with other

believers:

“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers and sisters. He who does not love abides in death This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” 1 John 3:14,16

Find other Christians who live near you. Meet with them in prayer and praise.

5. Read or listen to the Bible daily.

It is God’s love-letter to us. Reading it helps us to become mature and useful



in God’s service. Paul said to Timothy, his disciple:

“continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the

Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14-16. We have a daily reading plan with video links on our website riversoflife.org.uk

6 Tell others the Good News. We all have the task of befriending others and telling them about the free gift of eternal life:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes” Romans 1:16

“How can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”

Final word:

Now that you have become a child of God you have eternal life and no one can take it from you:

“I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10:28

“I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.” 2 Timothy 1:12