2020 05 24 And This is Eternal Life

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| And this is eternal life… | Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-351 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 **John 17:1-11** |

John 17:1-11.

What is our life to us?

Is it - a breath of wind and then it is past, a blade of grass that flourishes and the dries up?

so why bother?

Or

“What is man that You take notice of him?” we are special and loved by God the Eternal Creator?

One is transient with no purpose and then it does not exist except in the memory of a few people for their life and then - nothing!

Yet this is what very many people who live decent caring lives believe.

Or they have a belief in some or many deities and some sort of afterlife or many many lives until they work it out for themselves and then lose their lives in the mist of the ‘nothingness’ of “the Force be with you”.

John17 Jesus the Nazarene, the son, so it was thought of Joseph ben Jacob of the tribe of Judah, tells us a different reality – a reality of ‘life’.

“He may give eternal life to those that God has given to Him.”

Why are we still living in this physical world?

Jesus said:

V11 “I am not no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, **that they may be one even as We.”**

V15 “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them out of the power of evil.”

We are in this world to tell of the Holiness of God, of the love of God of the ‘gospel’ of the stupendous good news of salvation and the gift of righteousness in Jesus the Saviour.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses – even to the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:6-14)

There will come a time when the full number of the Gentiles to be reborn in the Spirit come in and then it will be time for the Lords return and the new heaven and earth and the openness of **us living in eternity** will be visible. (Romans 11:25)

But for now – **in this part of the eternity in which we live** – there will be testing and growth even though we have been given the righteousness of Jesus the Saviour – we will grow to live in this.

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11tells us: that to grow in the righteousness that God has placed in us NOW on this earth –

we will have testing in life -fiery trial - do not think it strange – Jesus suffered and was rejected – so- we can have that calm deep rejoicing from inside –

where Gods Presence lives with us.

5:6-11 how do we flow in this inner joy that shows in our living with rejection because we believe in Jesus = humble = strength under control *how does this work in us what it makes the quietness and is the outflow of the rightfulness of God in us?*

*V7 casting our cares onto Jesus – trust – why – because God cares for us individually.*

*V8 sober, alert, enemy – roaring lion, seeking to devour us – do not be unprepared - armour!!!*

*V9 be firm in our trust – we are not alone – there are other people in the same situation and we have God s Presence in us.*

*V10 the result – we are – through Christ – perfected, confirmed, strengthened, established*

V11 the purpose? - to God be dominion forever and ever.

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Some of the words of v32-35 which may encourage us to let our faith in God shine out.

“Sing to God,

Sing praises/thanks.

To Him who rides on the highest heavens,

Behold, a mighty voice.

Strength to God;

See His majesty

His strength is in the skies.

O God, awesome.

The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power to the people

Blessed be God!

*Lord I need words*

And “this is life – that I should know Jesus” (John 17:3)

“This is **eternal life,** that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

“now we see/ experience living as if we see it through a dark glass – but when we enter into eternity we will know, face to face even as we are now fully known by God” (1 Cor 13:12)

It brings a feeling of intimacy – of peace and quiet – do we want to be ‘known’ in this world by anyone totally but by God?

When Moses went up into the mountain to receive from God, he could only see the passing of God –

not God or he would die of? what – of being in Gods overwhelming purity. (Exodus 10:20)

But in Jesus we can see God face to face in **eternity**.

And we have now the righteousness of God in Jesus in this life on earth.

Psalm 139 brings a settledness – God is intimately acquainted with all my thought and feelings and ways – and I am entirely content with that –

because Jesus has brought me to God in his life and death and resurrection.

In eternity we will be known intimately by each other – but that is ok because there will only be Gods love and acceptance – no critical spirit or put downs.

A book that I am reading at the moment brings **eternity** in relationship to our now 24/7 life. “Church Without Religion” (Freedom to live the Christian life without fear and condemnation) Chris Lambe.

His basic point is that we are told and we believe that it is in Jesus righteousness – his always following in Gods will that made it possible for him to

‘Become sin for us’ on the cross where he took our sins into himself and descended into death. (2 Cor 5:21)

That because of his rightness in himself God raised him from the dead and received him into eternity where He is a representative for us and Gods Spirit, Gods Presence came to each of us individually.

So, we accept that we are clean and forgiven – in Jesus righteousness but;

the thing we are not taught is that we are given, filled with the righteousness of Jesus – we are made right and we are filled with rightness with purity **now – in this life**.

*Do we know this in ourselves?*

A few verses: 2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness but denying its power.”

Romans 10:2-3 “I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s rightness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Pg59 “By having a form of godliness we passively deny its power.” This means the very act of trying to live a godly life without tapping the internal source of godliness passively denies the source” - Gods Spirit within us.

We function from the inside out!

By having a form of righteousness, we in fact deny the rightness that we have already been given in Jesus – we strain and stress and plan but it is a chore

when if we knew that we already have all that we are ever going to have – and we start to see God already in us – God-likeness – like God – not God of course but we have Gods Presence in us – we are ‘godlike’ but never God – we cannot become megalomaniacs nor can we become empty’ trying to fill ourselves by pleasing God or earning points or being good enough – why – because we already are good enough – we are a new creation in Christ.

Our trust is in God Himself – not in Gods healing or miracles or gifts – it is in God that we trust.

Remember Enoch he is not known for fabulous act or suffering “he walked with God and God took him” – so he never saw death. – just walked with God each moment of each day.

(2Peter 1:3) “His divine power has already granted to us everything belonging to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him”

Godliness does not refer to the act of living in a godly manner – NO – it is the condition of being godly.

This is who we are when we come to Jesus in repentance and truth – we are made – not will be made – but are made *a new creation now.*

***And this is eternal life!*** -it begins on this earth

We have already received it.

**Eternal life** is not trouble-free living yet – it is a baby learning to walk – falling, stumbling BUT not alone, not just surviving - we are growing, learning, crying, laughing – now. *This is eternal live now!*

*We live and enjoy and love this creation and people – God did “because God so loved His creation that He sent His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish but has eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

The writings about heaven repeat one word – endlessly repeat –

“Holy, Holy, Holy is our Lord God.” (Rev 4:8)

The word of eternity is “Holy” God above all else is holy – pure, unsoiled by action or contact –

why did Jesus cry out on the cross –“My God my God why have you forsaken me” (Matt 27:46) – because Jesus took our sins, our rebellion, our uncleanness into himself and became sin for us – and God the Father – united in eternity, withdrew from him – Jesus entered into the ‘second death’ – the deep death for each of us individually and then

“God raised him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenlies.” (Ephesians 1:19-20)

Because – Jesus always followed, through love of the Father, the Fathers ways and will.

Where are we in this – “we know the certainty of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints [us, you and me, holy ones] and the surpassing greatness of His power which is towards and in us who believe. It is this same power that raised Jesus from hell – from the power of our sins, from the power of Satan the accuser.

**This is eternal life!**

When the veil is taken away and we see “God high and lifted up” it is not the glory of the sapphire throne and the sea of glass on fire and the streets of gold and ….

These are attempts to show in words things that cannot be described – the Living God – what we shall know is the fullness of the presence of God who is already inside us and around us and over and under and there is nothing else but Gods unveiled aliveness.

**This is eternal life.**

**“Now we see in part, now we know in part but then …”**

this you this is me

“all glory to Him who alone is God, who saves us through Jesus Christ our Lord; yes, splendour and majesty, all power and authority are His from the beginning; His they were and His they evermore are. He is able keep us from slipping and falling away. And to bring us, sinless and perfect, into His glorious presence.” (Jude 24,25 TLB)

“God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the stillness of the evening – no barriers – no blinding light – simply the presence of the Eternal Creator.” (Gen 3:8)

And so, may we.

Song “I come to the garden alone when the dew is still on the roses and the voice, I hear whispering in my ear the son of God discloses. And He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am His own …”

Or “I rise to the noise and the smell and the hunger and the voice I hear, the presence inside is the Son of God around me – and He walks with me and He talks with me – through the crowed day and the surrounding life – and He tells me I am his own …

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the streets hush their roaring,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

I’ll stay in life with Him
Though the night around me be falling,
His voice to me is love.

Try writing your own words!