

HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE

Titus 3:4-7 is one sentence and one complete thought regarding God's great salvation.

Seven of the 50 things that every church age believer receives at the moment of salvation, that he can never lose in time or eternity is listed in this one sentence. These seven things are:

1. God's Love (3:4)
2. His Mercy (3:5)
3. Regeneration and Renewing (3:5)
4. The Holy Spirit (3:6)
5. Spiritual Heirship (3:7)
6. Grace Justification (3:7)
7. **Eternal Life** (3:7)

We have paused in our study of the Book of Titus to study these 7 doctrines of God's grace salvation (Eph.2: 8-9).

Today's lesson will study FIVE aspects of the Hope of Eternal Life
"That being justified by His grace, we might be heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (3:7)

- 1. All members of the human race are born minus eternal life because of Adam's original sin (AOS; Rom.5: 12).**

"Being darkened in their understanding, **excluded from the life of God**, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts." (Eph.4:18) (2:1-5)

"And although you were formerly **alienated** and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds." (Col.1:21)

Eternal life is not synonymous with human life. Human life has a beginning (physical birth) and an end (physical death) (Eccl.3:2; Heb.9:27; Gen.2:17). Eternal life has a beginning (spiritual birth) but no end (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5)

"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." (John 5:24)

- 2. There is a difference between eternal life and endless existence of the soul.**

All members of the human race are made in the image of God (Gen.1:27; 1 Cor.11:7). Therefore, they have eternity set in their hearts (Eccl.3:11).

Their decision to believe or reject the gospel of Jesus Christ determines where they will spend eternity (Luke 16:19-31).

"And these (unbeliever) will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous (believer) into eternal life." (Matt.25:46) (John 5:29; Acts 24:15; Rom.2:7-8).

Every church age believer will go to heaven to be with Jesus Christ at death because he has eternal life (2 Cor.5: 6-9).

3. Eternal life is the life of the Godhead (1 Tim.6: 17).

God, the Father – “And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” (John 17:2-3)

God, the Son – “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4; 8:12; 14:6; 1 John 5:11-13) – “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies.” (John 11:25)

God, the Holy Spirit – “But the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.” (Gal.6:8; 2 Cor.3:6; John 6:63)

4. Eternal life is imputed to every person who believes that Jesus died for his sins, was buried and raised on the third day.

“In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior.” (Titus 1:2-3)

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

“That whoever believes may in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:15-16)

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36; 6:47; 1 John 5:11-13)

“I give to eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one is able to snatch them out of My hand. The Father, who has given them to Me is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10:28-30)

5. Eternal life (aionios zoe) is a spiritual quality of life that pertains to the divine nature of the church age believer (2 Pet.1: 4) (John 12:25; 1 John 2:25).

“To the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?” (2 Cor.2:16)

“I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

“But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)

Hope (elpis / confident expectation / assurance) of eternal life comes from faith in God’s word on doctrinal subject - “But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31; 1 John 2:25-26; John 5:39; Phil.2:16)

Assurance of eternal life is the believer’s responsibility while security of eternal life is the responsibility of God.

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