

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 23:44-49.**
- B. This lesson continues the series on the sayings of J while He was hanging on the cross. This is lesson number five, and there are two more to come.
- C. Yet, to be looked at (including tonight):
 - 1. "Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit" (Lk. 23:46).
 - 2. "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34).
 - 3. "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30).
- D. Tonight's lesson comes from Lk. 23:46; "Into thy hands I commit My spirit."

I. AN ARGUMENT FOR IMMORTALITY.

- A. This statement of Jesus is a great argument for the immortality of the soul. Jesus was to give His soul to God as if He had made an appointment to do so--while the flesh would die.
- B. Man is much more than bone and flesh. He is a living soul (Gen. 2:7; Mt. 10:28).
- C. Jesus, in the one statement, helps to explain how the apostle Paul could say that Jesus has brought life and immortality to light in the gospel (2Tim. 1:10).
- D. The soul of man lives eternally and there are two alternatives; eternal life or eternal death. The soul will live forever; it is eternal, given by God.

II. ETERNAL LIFE IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF GOD IN CHRIST.

- A. Scripture text: 1Jn. 5:8-9, 11-13.
(1Jn 5:8-9) the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. **9** 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... **11** And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. **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.
- B. There are three in agreement, the Spirit and the water and the blood:
 - 1. The Spirit (who gave us instruction by the word).
 - 2. The water (the ordinance of baptism which gives spiritual life).
 - 3. The blood (which forgives sins and is commemorated each Sunday).
- C. God is bearing witness to eternal life by His son, JC. We must believe in that witness to have eternal life. We can know that we have eternal life.
- D. Some passages for consideration:
 - 1. Matthew 19:29.
"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life."
 - 2. John 3:15-16.
that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life. **16** "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."
 - 3. John 4:14.
"...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."
 - 4. John 6:68.
Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life."
 - 5. Romans 5:21.
...that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - 6. Romans 6:22-23.

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7. Galatians 6:8.
For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.
8. (1Tim. 6:12).
Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
9. Titus 3:7.
that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
10. (1Jn. 5:11, 13).
And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son... **13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

III. XIANS WILL INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. The NT speaks of inheriting eternal life.
- B. We are to give up everything in this life to gain eternal life (Mt. 19:29).
“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.”
- C. Our eternal life with God is a place prepared for the faithful even before the foundation of the world. Truly, God wants us there (Mt. 25:34).
“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ “
- D. Obeying the commandments is the criteria of inheriting eternal life.
See Lk. 10:25 (from the lawyer); 18:18 (from the rich young ruler).
(Lk 10:25) And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
(Lk 18:18) And a certain ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
- E. The wicked people of the earth and our own flesh and blood will not be able to inherit eternal life. Eternal life is for faithful souls (1Cor. 6:10; 15:50).
(1Cor 6:10) ...nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
(1Cor 15:50) Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
- F. Paul has said that we have the hope of eternal life. And he has also said that we cannot hope for what we already have. So, as Xians we have eternal life in prospect now, with knowing that we shall receive it on judgment day (Titus 1:2; Rom. 8:24; Mt. 25:46).
(Ti 1:2) ...in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,
(Rom 8:24) For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?
(Mt 25:46) “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We have in this saying of Jesus a brief look at the difference between the fleshly body of man and the eternal soul that lives within.
- B. The fleshly body is not eternal but the soul that is inside is. Jesus died in the flesh but He lived on because of His spirit.
- C. We too will die in the flesh. But our soul will live on. Will our soul then experience eternal life with God or eternal death away from God.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring-Xians.