

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1John 2:25; 5:11-13**. Sentinel, OK; 27.
- B. This sermon is in response to a question received during the gospel meeting of Oct. 2-6, 1983.
- C. A very fine question was given during the gospel meeting and I would like to take time to answer it this evening.
- D. Let us look at this query and these passages in detail.

I. CHRISTIANITY, ETERNAL LIFE, AND THE SOUL OF MAN.

- A. First of all 1John 2:25 contains the heart, soul, center, and reward of the entire Christian system. This is the one great drawing card of Christianity over other known religions and philosophies. Christianity promises eternal life.
- B. Every soul of God (that is, which God has created) is eternal. Every person has eternal existence, meaning that upon physical death the soul will continue to live (Mt. 10:28; Jas. 1:21).
NOTE: The word hell in Mt. 10:28 is *gehenna* which means eternal place of punishment were there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- C. Therefore, since every soul will live forever, it is important to know how to inherit eternal life, and when it takes place.

II. HOW TO OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. We recognize that Jesus Christ is the giver of eternal life (Jn. 10:28).
- B. Secondly we see that man asks how to obtain it, and the Bible will give the answers.
 - 1. The rich young ruler asked (Mk. 10:17).
 - 2. The sinful Jews asked (Ac. 2:37).
 - 3. The scared jailor asked (Ac. 16:30).
- C. The answer is the plan of salvation as taught in the Bible.
 - 1. Obey the form of doctrine (Rom. 6:17).
 - 2. A clean conscience by baptism (1Pet. 3:21).
 - 3. We walk in newness of life after baptism (Rom. 6:4).
 - 4. We have the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:23).
- D. Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism give us eternal life.

III. THE POSSESSION OF ETERNAL LIFE AND OUR SCRIPTURE TEXTS.

- A. To understand 1Jn. 5:11-13 we back up to v.8-10.
- B. The three in agreement (5:8) are:
 - 1. The Spirit (who gave us instruction by authoring the word).
 - 2. The water (the ordinance of baptism which gives life).
 - 3. The blood (which forgives sins, and is commemorated every Sunday).They are in agreement because they all come from Christ.
- C. We know this to be true (all from Christ) because of 5:9.
- D. Therefore one must believe in Christ to have eternal life, or call the testimony (or witness) of God a lie.
- E. 1John 5:11-13:
 - 1. God is the true author of eternal life in His Son (5:11).
 - 2. We must have the Son to have (eternal) life (5:12).
 - 3. John writes of this great witness so we can know we have (eternal) life (5:13).
- F. Romans 8:16 gives additional meaning to 1Jn. 5:13 so we know that we are children of God, and possess eternal life.

IV. ETERNAL LIFE IS ALSO INHERITED.

- A. We cannot stop short of noticing that eternal life is not only possessed by those who have the Son, but is also something that is inherited.
- B. The following scriptures speak of eternal life as being inherited:
 - 1. Leave family, farms for Jesus' sake (Mt. 19:29).
 - 2. The judgment scene (Mt. 25:34).
 - 3. The rich young ruler and lawyer (Lk. 10:25; 18:18).
 - 4. The wicked shall not inherit the kingdom (1Cor. 6:10).
 - 5. Flesh and blood do not inherit the kingdom (1Cor. 15:50).
- C. It is upon the death of an individual that he/she truly possesses eternal life (Mt. 25:46).
- D. It can be reasoned that when one is baptized he then possesses eternal life in prospect. He definitely has it (if faithful to death) but it is not awarded until the Judgment Day.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Eternal life is man's greatest blessing. Only through the blood of Christ can we have it.
- B. Possess eternal life today by becoming a child of God, or restoring one's self to obedience to Him.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.