

John 3; Lord's Day 22

I BELIEVE IN LIFE EVERLASTING

- I. What it is.
 - A. Negatively.
 - 1. Everlasting life is not existence on earth without end; nor is it activity.
 - 2. Those experiencing God's wrath do not even see life (John 3:3), let alone enter it and enjoy it.
 - B. Positively, life is God's gift of being able to know (in love) God (John 17:3).
 - 1. God's life is harmonious activity of perfect fellowship.
 - 2. It is to taste His love, to experience His friendship, to see His face (Ps. 73:28a).
- II. How? Only through Jesus, God's Son.
 - A. Adam could know God by virtue of creation.
 - B. Eternal life is a new life because it has its source in the incarnated Son of God.
 - C. Also eternal life is resurrection life, i.e., it is life on-the-other-side-of-death.
- III. Believers experience this eternal life by means of the gift of faith.
 - A. We experience eternal life already now by believing (John 3:36; 11:25) (it is not experienced only in the future).
 - 1. Regeneration is that life, for it is the power of Christ's resurrection (I Peter 1:3).
 - 2. The joy and blessedness of eternal life is found in being forgiven and in the peace through being justified by faith.
 - B. In heaven this beginning of eternal life will be changed into a fullness of joy.
 - C. Believe, embrace Christ as the fulness of all your emptiness, and live forever.