



July 10, 2022

“Eternal Life”

SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.

News:

Church **Camp** Aug 22-24

Contact the pastor with requests: Text: (406) 249-9419, Email: pastor@myaletheia.com

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

Visit the website ~ www.myaletheia.com

New Podcast Host: myaletheia.podbean.com Or go to Spotify, and type in myaletheia

Like us on Facebook (aletheiachristianfellowship)

Emails: pastor@myaletheia.com, stacey.sundt@myaletheia.com

It is very popular for people to allege that Jesus never claimed that He was _____, and that there is no basis for the concept of the _____.

Many doctrines are debatable. What’s concerning, is that so many Christians cannot tell the difference between what’s legitimately debatable and what’s only _____ debated.

None of the people rejecting the Trinity do so because the Bible is _____.

JOHN 5:24 ~ “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.”

Another _____ that Jesus and the Father play. The Father sent the Word to become a human, that’s why He’s designated as the Father and why the Word is designated as the Son – these _____ due to the incarnation. The Father sent the Son so that He could _____ through Him to us.

“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God”
(Matthew 4:4, from Deuteronomy 8:3).

Hunger can be a teacher – hence _____.

Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

Anytime God speaks it is Him _____ Himself to us. God's Word is His self-revelation to mankind (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Trust Him enough that when your food runs out, instead of _____, you start looking for Manna.

The fourth stanza of the Lord's Prayer is, give us our _____ ration of the Bread of Life.

There is no condemnatory judgment for living beings, and there is no other option than condemnatory judgement for those who are already _____.

"Hear My Word," means understanding and accepting and then embracing the words and so the Word. To be a Christian there must be a _____ from death to life.

"Hears" & "Believes" are present participles. Continuous action that has become tangible.

"Has" & "Come" are present indicatives. Continuous action.

"Has passed" is a perfect indicative. It is finished with a focus on the continuing outcome.

Eternal life is life in _____ harmony with God – forever... Beginning the very moment a person is Saved. Just like a person already has eternal life, so they already and continuously bypass condemnatory _____.

As with hearing and believing, this having and skipping are tied together as one thing, and then Jesus closed with a _____ that it is so... Such people have already passed out of death and into life. Abundant Life. What are you doing with yours?

A Disciple is not a person who merely _____ at the Master's feet and learns.

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

The logo for Alêtheia Christian Fellowship features a stylized orange mountain range icon to the left of the word "Alêtheia" in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP" are written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

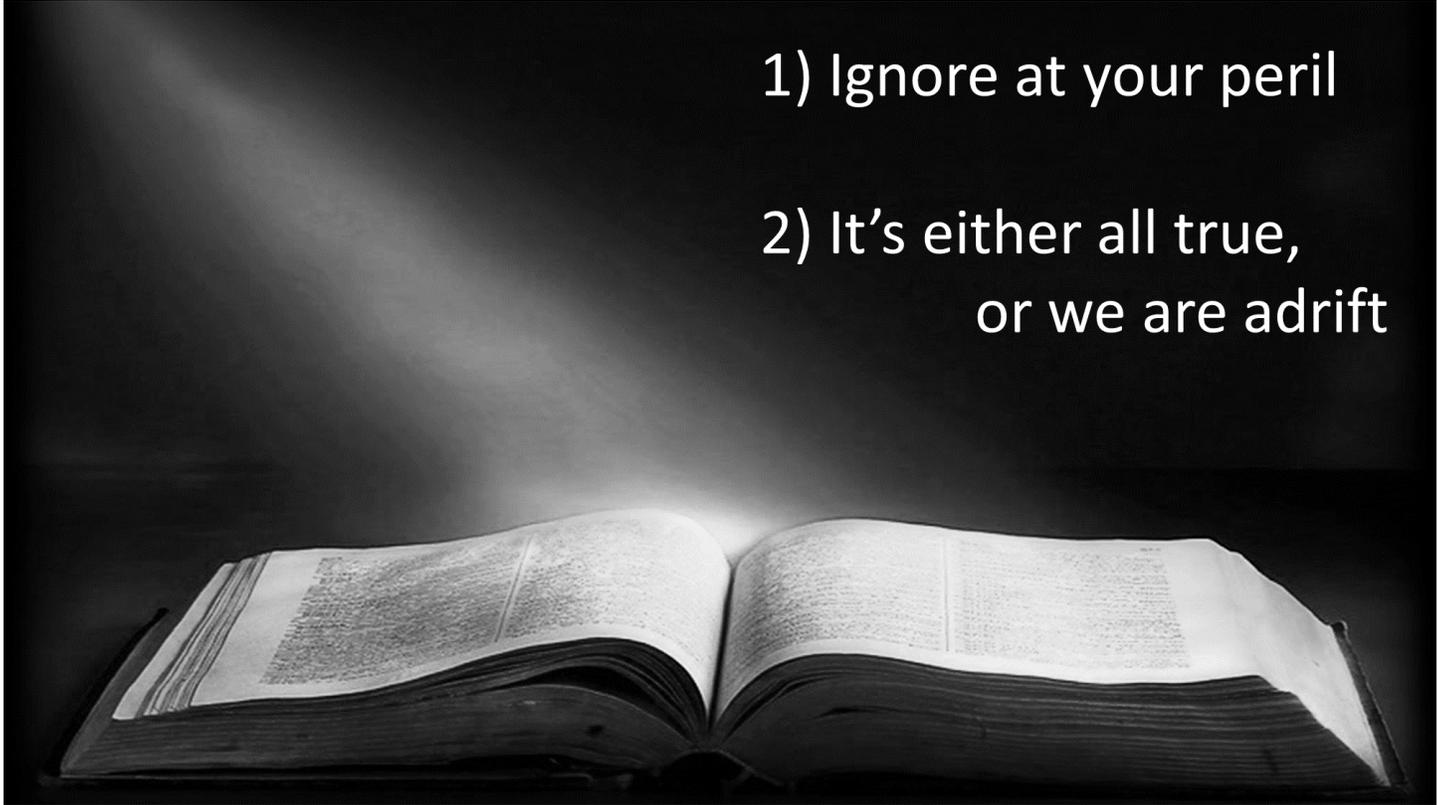
Alêtheia

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



It is very popular for people to allege that Jesus never claimed that He was God, and that there is no basis for the concept of the Trinity. We would expect such contentions from Jews, Muslims, and Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Oneness Pentecostals, Unitarians, Christian Scientists, and many branches of the Church of God... All of whom believe that Jesus is less than the Father or is the Father in disguise.

- 1) Ignore at your peril
- 2) It's either all true,
or we are adrift



What's more problematic is that many in more traditional Christian circles today hold the same nontrinitarian beliefs. Why? Because they do not believe the Bible. That is either due to ignorance about what the Bible says, or it is due to denying what the Bible says. I'm going to say that whole thing again because it is really, really, important. Please understand, when people reject the Trinity, it is only because they do not believe the Bible – they do not believe what the Scriptures say about the nature of God. Now, that failure to believe the Bible can be because the person is uninformed, in which case instruction may be helpful, or that person rejects that

the teaching of the Bible in this area is reliable. So hopefully you saw something there. Anyone who truly understands what the Bible actually says is forced to accept the Trinity, so the ones who still refuse to believe do so by saying that the Bible is incorrect.

It is true that many things in the Bible are open to interpretation. Many doctrines really are debatable. What's grieves me personally, is that so many Christians cannot tell the difference between legitimately debatable issues and issues that are foolishly debated.

I had written nearly a full sermon on this topic and discarded it as being too pedantic. Let me summarize my scrapped sermon. Christians need to understand the foundation and basis of their faith. To be a genuine Christian, belief must be minimally correct. In particular, the Christ of Christianity must be the actual Christ, rather than a false Christ, the True Jesus, rather than a Jesus of one's own invention – as a minimum. Christianity is not Christianity if it is not predicated on Christ.

In my earlier list of those rejecting the Trinity Jews and Muslims, make no pretense of being Christian.

Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, believe in a completely different Jesus than traditional Christianity. The remaining groups, and others like them, believe in a distorted Jesus of their group's own manufacture.

Why? Is it possible that it's because the nature of Jesus and therefore the nature of God one of the legitimately debatable issues of the Bible?

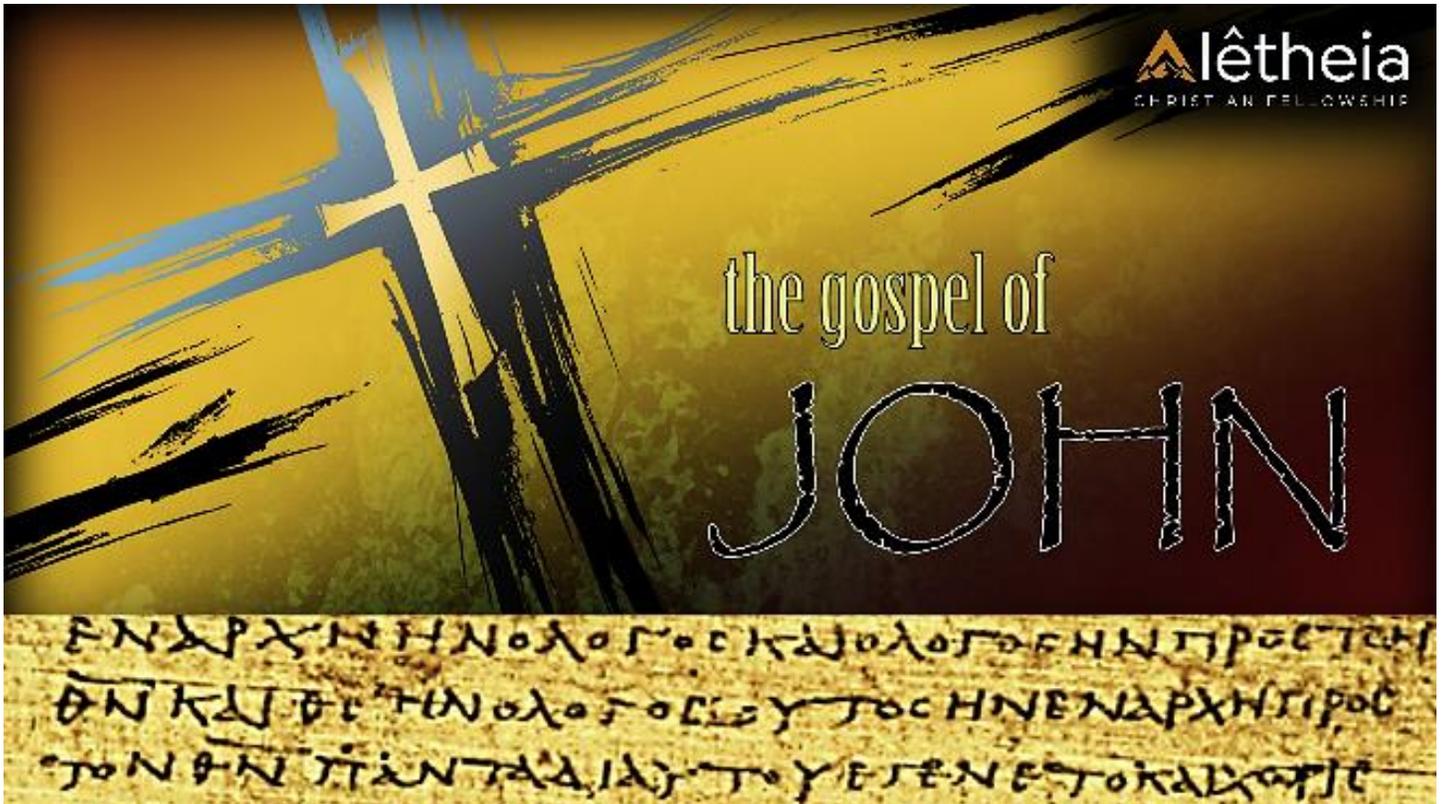
No! I cannot possibly overstress this fact. The nature of Jesus and therefore the nature of God is not even remotely a legitimately debatable doctrine – Biblically. From a Biblical infallibility standpoint, it is only ever illegitimately debated. None of the people rejecting the Trinity do so because the Bible is unclear – they do so because they don't understand the Bible, or they reject the Bible's truthfulness.

So many of our doctrinal differences are legitimately arguable that people assume that any disagreement falls into that category. Most don't. Most of our differences of opinion within Christianity are not due to the Bible being vague, they are due to humans being

vague. Why are humans vague? Only in order to deceive.

Neither Judaism, nor Islam use the Bible of Christianity. The Jehovah's Witnesses have their own mistake-riddled translation, and the official Mormon position is that the Bible is only accurate as it supports and agrees with their superior Book of Mormon. The remainder either do not accept the Bible we have today as the infallible Word of God, or they distort its meaning with egregiously poor interpretations. Humans twist the Truth to fit their agenda and then say it's just another way to interpret the Bible – well it's not. Not in this case anyway.

The only way a so-called Christian can hold a nontrinitarian view is to ignore, alter, or reject, the clear teaching of the Bible. One of the most important passages confirming the Trinity is the Passage we studied last week where Jesus was incredibly forthright and blunt. Here, He continues in that vein.



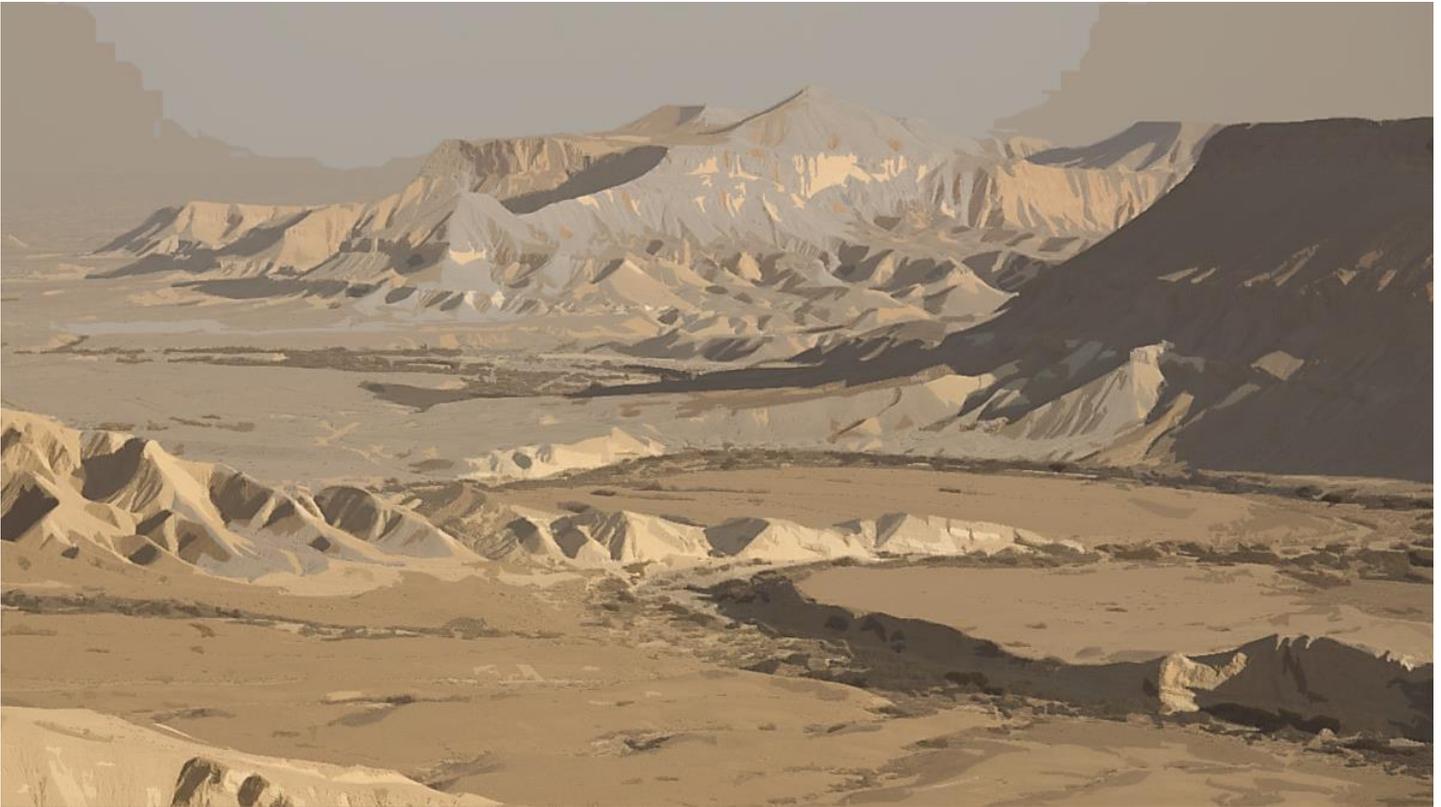
John 5:24, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”



Again, if a person understands the full Bible, both Old and New Testaments, and accepts the Bible as being correct in what it purports to convey, they can come to no other conclusion than Jesus is God as an autonomous individuated Being. Additionally, that the Father is likewise God autonomously. Finally, that the two, while different in their roles, are so unified in their purpose, that they think, speak and act as one. That is a duality made explicitly clear in this chapter. As I said before, other passages reveal the same to be true of the Holy Spirit and so we have a Trinity.

The road to travel lies between thinking, on the one hand, that the Father, Son, and Spirit, are three unequal individuals subordinate to the Father, and on the other hand, thinking that God is just one individual operating under three different guises. The Biblical Trinity is three individuated, co-equal, Beings who are in such perfect relational harmony, that they never act out of step with each other and so can legitimately be thought of as One God.

In our first verse today, we see Jesus giving us another role that He and the Father play. The Father sent Jesus to become a flesh and blood human, that's why He's designated as the Father and why the Word is designated as the Son – these roles due to the incarnation. The Father sent the Son so that He (the Father) could speak through Jesus. The Father could speak His Message to us humans, through Jesus. Hold on to that thought... we'll circle back.



After starving in the wilderness for 40 days Jesus said to Satan, “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). It’s a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3, where we see the Jews wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. It tells us that God humbled the people by allowing them to become hungry and then He miraculously provided them with Manna from Heaven to fill their stomachs. God said that it was so they would know that it is God Who provides life and everything thereunto pertaining. Hunger can be a teacher – hence fasting.

The point is that the people were physically hungry and God supernaturally intervened and satisfied that physical need in order to drive home a divine lesson.



The purpose of the exercise was to teach the people to trust God. God is what people need to seek above all else, and when that's the case, everything else falls into place.

Now, everything falling into place does not mean that everything goes the way we humans want them to go in this physical life – it just means that everything goes the way God wants them to go and we're okay with that because we trust Him.

That's a difficult lesson to understand, let alone live. God told the people through His prophets that one day He would do the same thing for them spiritually. He would provide His Anointed One to be the true spiritual Manna from Heaven – it would be the real Bread of Life – it would be God's Own Word, that mankind would feast upon.



What's important to note, now tying back into the thought I asked you to hold, is that anytime God speaks it is Him revealing Himself to us. God's Word is His self-revelation to mankind. It's the same for us as well. It is a seldom thought about self-evident truth that

anytime a person speaks they are revealing something of themselves. Even if, what you or I say, is a lie, or a mistake, or a partial truth, it reveals something about us to anyone focused enough to catch it.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

- Hebrews 1:3 -



God's Words are always windows into God Himself – Him choosing to share a bit about Himself – if we pay attention. The amazing Book of Hebrews opens with, Hebrews 1:1-3 (NIV), 1In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact

representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

The “Right hand” is the position of complete trust, honor, and power. The point I’m driving at is that God’s Word is God. Not just in reality, but in function. In the sense I’m focused on today, God’s Word is God, just as your word is you and Scott’s word is Scott.



Obviously, the Word of God is God in more ways than this, but in this sense it’s important to realize that what we need to nourish us spiritually is God’s self-

revelation and that can only come as He speaks His Word to us. Personified, His Word is Jesus – Jesus is the Message, and the Message is ultimately the Good News of Salvation.

God promised a way to trust Him fully – a way to trust Him enough that when your food runs out, instead of complaining and despairing, instead of taking matters into your own hands, you start looking for Manna.

We could say that acting that out in your spiritual life, you would be spiritually mature, but how much more spiritually mature would you be if you acted that out in your physical life as well? Some tribulation befalls you and instead of getting upset, you get busy waiting upon the Lord to provide.

What is the ultimate provision? The Manna that produces eternal life – the Manna from Heaven that is Jesus the Word of God made the Bread of Life upon which we must feast. The ultimate provision is the Message of Salvation that produces eternal life.

I think it's a shame that so many people misunderstand the Lord's Prayer, especially the fourth stanza where it

says literally, “The bread, of us, that which is necessary to being, give to us today.” It is a convoluted and weird way to say what most Bibles simplify to “Give us this day our daily bread.” The reason it’s bizarre Greek is it is directly referring back to the Manna from Heaven. It means, “Father, give to us today, and each and every day, our daily allotment of the Bread that gives us our being.” What pains me about the stanza is so many people assume, particularly based upon the English translation, that we are taught here to ask for our physical needs. In a six-stanza prayer – five to exclusively pertain to spiritual matters, but this is fourth is the odd duck out?

No, this has everything to do with our spiritual Bread. It is to pray that the Father be honored, that His Kingdom come in Christ, and that His Will be done through the Holy Spirit. It is to say at a minimum, Father, build your Kingdom in us, that Your Will would be unopposed, and that You would thereby be honored... And to get that done, I need my daily ration of the Bread of Life – my daily allotment of the Word – my daily allowance of Jesus.



Jesus said in our verse today, “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.”

All judgment is given to the Son and this is the mechanism of that judgment – refuse to believe and you remain spiritually dead. I used the zombie metaphor a while back. It’s true. Every person on planet earth is “A dead man walking” – a spiritual zombie. It is only when we believe the Word and the One Who spoke that Word – that is to say, believe

Jesus and the Father Who sent Him – only then can a person be reborn as a spiritually alive being.

There is no condemnatory judgment for living beings, and there is no other option than condemnatory judgement for those who are already dead.



What does it mean to “Hear My Word,” and what does it mean to “Believe Him Who sent Me”? To “Hear” Jesus again refers to His underlying nature as the Word or Message. One must hear, not merely see Jesus.

Hearing in this sense implies understanding and accepting and then embracing the words and so the Word. When God speaks it not only reveals Who He is, it is also pure Truth without any hint of deception and therefore to hear God – to understand His Message, is to accept and embrace His Message.

An embrace of the Word of God, Jesus the Christ, Lord and Savior, is to be convinced enough that one's very existence is transformed – a spark of life ignited by supernatural eternal rebirth. New birth in Christ means a new way of looking at everything – a new worldview – a new perspective. It is precisely what the Apostle Paul described as the “Renewing of your mind” by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is in that way that Christians move from worldliness to becoming Christ-like.

There is a Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and it occurs at the moment of rebirth. If a person is still dead, as evidenced by no change in their ideology, beliefs, attitudes, intentions, and desires, they are not Christians.

Despite what some denominations teach, infant baptism does not make a person a Christian. Despite what other denominations teach repeating the “Sinner’s Prayer” does not make a person a Christian. Despite what some people think, being of European descent, or belonging to the Republican Party, or being born in America, does not make a person a Christian.

To be a Christian there must be a transference from dark to light and from death to life – one must be, to use Jesus’ words, “Born Again.” Here in verse 24 Jesus makes that clear once more, by His use of verb tenses.

I know it’s a bit much, but I don’t want there to be any mistake about it – so allow me to belabor the point. “He who hears My Word.” “Hears” is a present participle. Present verbs indicate ongoing, continuous, habitual activity – the hearing never stops.

If you ever hear Jesus, you will continue to hear Him forever. Beyond that though the word is also a participle. That just means that the hearing, once done, becomes an established reality – the thing that was heard is now an object that is continuously held. It is to believe what was heard and to then hold that belief.

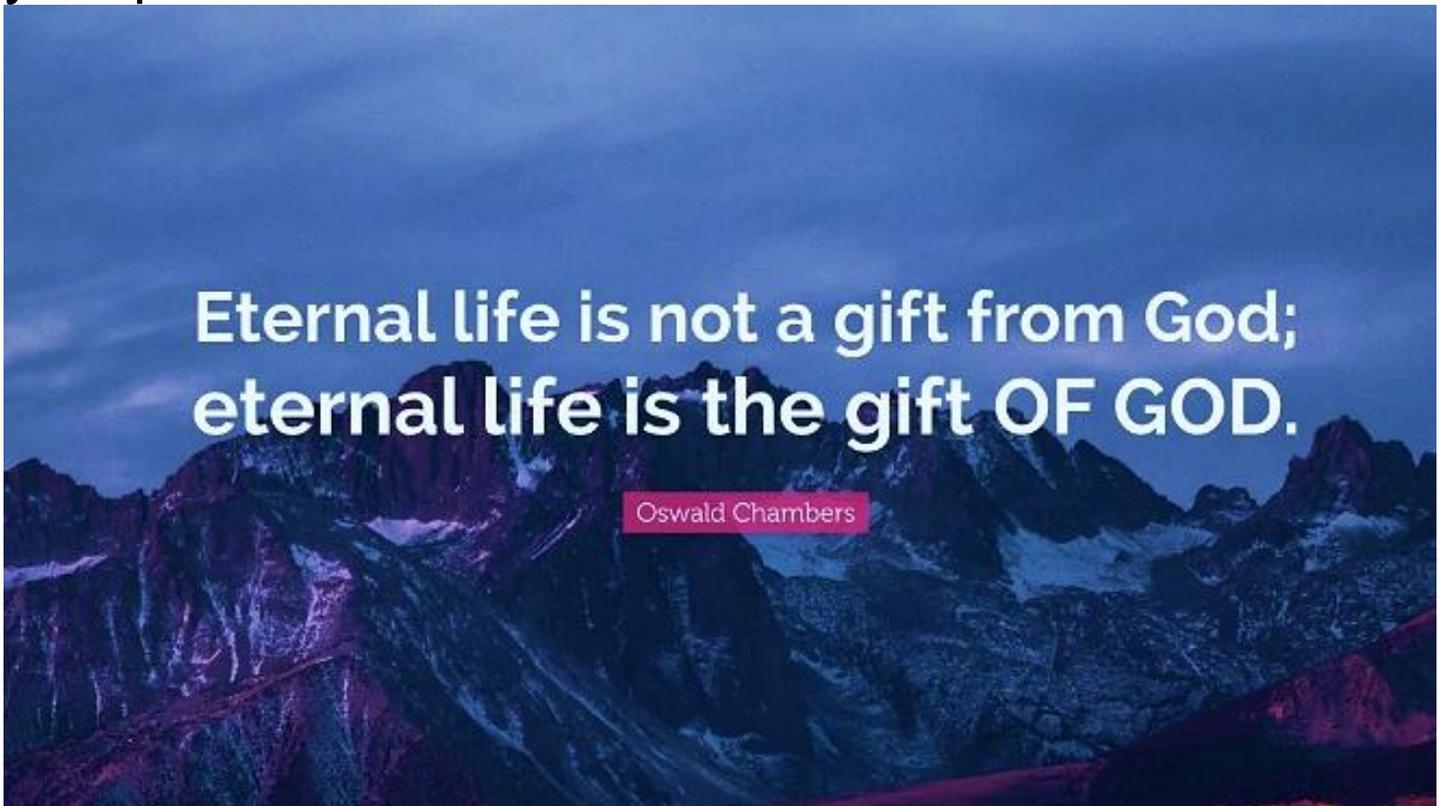


To have truly heard Jesus is to thereafter, hear Jesus. That's transformative all by itself. Then that thought is tied equally to the next thought which is "Believes Him who sent Me." The verb "Believes" is identically constructed as "Hears" was and means the same thing. The one who truly believes then continues in that believing.

The two parts, as I said, are tied together and so one must do both. You must hear Jesus and believe the Father, which might seem like two things, but they are both actually the same thing. To believe in Him Who

sent Jesus is to hear Jesus and likewise to hear Jesus is to believe in the One Who sent Him.

Jesus then said, such a person “Has eternal life.” That is a verb that means once you have it, you have it in an ongoing fashion. Therefore, to fulfill the two-part requirement, which is just one thing, is to possess as your possession eternal life.



**Eternal life is not a gift from God;
eternal life is the gift OF GOD.**

Oswald Chambers

Now, a word about eternal life. So many people think that it means never dying, but the Biblical focus is not only on living, it's on the kind of life that continues forever. It is entering into what Jesus called the “Abundant life.” We’ll talk about that when we get there

in the 10th chapter of John, but for now realize that throughout both the Old and New Testaments, eternal life is about life in God's Kingdom where His perfect Will is completely unopposed – it is life in relational harmony with God – it is righteousness forever.

What should be blatantly obvious is that such an abundant life given by the Father through the ministry of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit begins the very moment a person is Saved. At the instant of Salvation, you are transferred from the kingdom of torment to the Kingdom of Heaven – there's no waiting around until you die – there's therefore, likewise, no moldering in the grave until the end of time. A true child of God already possesses and so, experiences eternal life now. Since that is true, why would we think that a tiny thing like physical death would be any kind of hindrance?



Let's finish off the verbs of the verse. Jesus then linked the concept of hearing and believing unto eternal life, with the negative side – what you avoid. He said that a person possessing eternal life is not Judged. The construction clearly points to the Condemnatory Final Judgment and while it is passive, something done to you, rather than active, something you do, the rest of the verbal structure follows the previous phrase. Just like that person already has eternal life, so they have already and continuously bypass condemnatory Judgment.

The Bible talks about what's usually referred to as the Great White Throne Judgment where the beings whose names are not found in the Lamb's Book of Life will be condemned as guilty and consigned into eternal torment. The one possessing eternal life cannot possibly be so condemned because, by definition, they do have their names in The Book and so bypasses that Judgment. Now there is another Judgment usually called the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ. where all the ones skipping the aforementioned condemnation will have a personal, individual, face-to-face, literal "Come to Jesus" meeting. When you stand before the One Whose eyes are like blazing fire, and Whose feet are like burnished bronze glowing in a furnace, and Whose voice is like the roar of many rushing waters, Who holds in his right hand seven stars, and Who has a sharp, double-edged sword that is His Word, and Whose face is like the sun shining in all its brilliance (Revelation 1:14-16), He will demand a full accounting of what you did on this earth with this "Abundant Life" He gave you.

As with hearing and believing, this having and skipping are tied together as one thing, and then Jesus closed this thought with a reason that it is so... Such people

have already passed out of death and into life. Relational life. Eternal life. Abundant Life. What are you doing with yours?



That's truly the question implied by the final verb that we'll discuss today. It is a perfect tense verb meaning that while it is a done deal for the kind of person we've been talking about, the entire focus is on the ongoing ramifications. What are you doing with your Abundant Life?

A Disciple is not a person who merely sits at the Master's feet and learns. A Disciple is an extension of

the Master's teaching to others. He reaches others through us because we learn by doing.

Have you ever left a church service and thought, wow, that was a great sermon, but hours later you couldn't remember much of it? Take what Jesus teaches you and apply it. When you do, you'll not only remember the lesson, you'll be doing what He called you to do – you'll be doing the very thing that He will ask you about when the two of you get together.

If you are busy about the Master's work, which means that you are actively allowing Jesus to work through you as you are meeting with Him daily on the job – as you are receiving Him each day, and every day, your daily allotment – you have no concern about giving Him your final report.

Now, no fear of the Great White Throne Judgment, and no fear of the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ either... Now that's the "Abundant Life"!