

Eternity

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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February 5, 2022

John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life."*

There have been many deaths during this pandemic and many have lost their loved ones: a parent, a sibling, spouse or a friend. Hence, it is important for people to know about eternity. The good news is that God is not only **eternal**, but He is also **love**. He loved us then; He loves us now; and He will always love us. Those who believe in Him shall not die.

1. God does not change. But we change.

1.1. All material things change every second but we don't always notice. We can measure change by the lapse of time. Our bodies age or lose weight over days, months or years. Flowers bloom for a while and then will wither.

1.2. Angels change. God created good angels. However, some of them turned into devils. We should never argue with the devils, for we will never win. We need to get help from priests or elders. If we are left alone, we will be weak. Separated from God, we are nothing.

2. God will share with us His eternal life.

2.1. Only God is eternal. He never changes or has an end. And yet, we have eternal life. How come? There is only one way and that is, if God will share His life with us. He sent His Son so that our flesh will be united with the One who is Life. If we accept His Son, who is Life, then we share His Life. How do we receive His Son?

2.1.1. To those who receive Him, He gave the power to become children of God.

2.1.2. They who believe in Christ are beloved children of God and share His eternal life (1 John 1).

2.2. God is love. He first loved us and sent His Son to take our sin away (1 John 4:7-12)

without exception—the good and the sinner, rich and poor, the beautiful and the not so beautiful.

2.3. The proof is simple: Do we love God the way He loves us? Can we love those who have not paid loans to us or those who gossip about us? Can we love our enemies, or pray for those who persecute us? If we can, then we know that we are children of God. If we love, we show and recognize that we are children of God through love.

2.4. Even if we are children of God, we are not exempted from pain/diseases. We can still be afflicted with Covid or any fatal diseases. We are likely to have wrinkles and develop arthritis. It shall not yet appear what we shall be (Romans 8).

3. The time will come when we will receive the full share of God which is heaven. But what we do not see yet is scary. We have to prepare for that time. How do we prepare?

3.1. Live a life God wants us to be. If we want eternal life, let us keep the commandments. These guide us to live a life of love. God wants us to fulfill them out of our sincere initiative, not because we are forced (1 Cor. 13).

3.2. We need to show love and learn to accept love - the love of God in whatever form it takes. Thus, we also love those who are not loveable: our enemies and the poor.

3.3. God's love is sometimes tender or "tough love. "We have to pass the valley of death to enter into eternal life." Only then will we realize the beauty of life eternal with God.

Conclusion:

Though we perish, we can also have eternal life. That is our destiny: do not fear anything or even death. Nothing can separate us from God. The time will come when eternal life will be revealed to us. "I have come so that they can have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

Reflection:

1. What and how are you doing as a child of God?
2. How will you prepare for eternal life?

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