

C. We Believe: ETERNAL Life is Available Through
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture: 1 John 5:11-13

1. Introductory note:

Christians believe many things. The basic belief is in God and His Word. The primary thing this belief leads us to is God's provision for those who trust him. This comes to be the matter of eternal life.

The background of our experience is sin. We see it in all walks of our lives and in the experiences of every day. Sin involves all that is less than God's expectation of us...whether a direct violation of his law, an act not done in faith, or a simple oversight where we did not do what we should have done. All are sins...all are sinful...we all participate in all three. And where we find that what God desires (requires) is perfect righteousness, we find that what we have to offer is sin. We are thereby lost and unfit for his presence. We find true in life, no matter how we wish to identify it, the bitter fact that we are unworthy of God's fellowship, love, or acceptance. That is not, as someone has well put it, the "good news". The "Good News" is that God has made provision for us that we may be forgiven, cleansed, made right in his sight and guaranteed eternity with Him. This is provided through our Lord Jesus Christ. It involves a cleansing from unrighteousness, and a restoration in grace. We use the term "eternal life" (as in 1 John 5:11) since it tells us what is meant by all of this work of grace. Free from the judgment of sin we are privileged to be alive with God...now and through eternity..heaven's ages to come.

Eternal life should not be confused with "continued existence". Even the wicked will continue to exist, in punishment. "Eternal life" is being alive with the glorious blessing and company of God. As our Lord said: "This is life eternal..to know thee,