

**I BELIEVE LIFE EVERLASTING**  
Psalm 16; Revelation 22: 1- 5; Psalm 16:11  
July 4, 2021

**Introduction:** Many today focus on what God will do with those who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior. Could one reason for that be that many are more worried about eternal punishment than they are excited about eternal life.

**I. Everlasting Life as Walking the Path of Life with God**

**A. As Christians, our belief in life everlasting is not only our hope for the future, but is our belief in what we have already possess today.**

**1 John 5:11-12,** And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1. This verse says has life— which means has it already.
2. Everlasting life is not just a future possession

**B. To have everlasting life is to have an everlasting relationship with God that begins today**

1. When some think of everlasting or eternal life, they of it as existing forever.
2. But listen again to what Jesus said to God the Father in John 17:3.

**John 17:3 (NIV)** Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

3. **Eternal or Everlasting life is different than everlasting existence**
  - a. All people will live eternally, no matter where they end up.
  - b. Everlasting life is life lived in relationship with our everlasting God.

**C. In our text, the Psalmist speaks of having everlasting life with God as knowing the path of life,**

**Psalm 16:11 (NIV)** You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

1. To travel that path is to know true joy and comfort.
2. And to travel it is to know future eternal pleasures at God's right hand.

**Questions:**

- 1) Am I truly excited about eternal life, or am I just afraid of the alternative? How do I show that? Am I more focused on eternal (or everlasting) life in the future (in other words, going to heaven) than I am with enjoying eternal life today? Why would I say that about myself?
- 2) How would I describe the difference between eternal life and eternal existence? What really is eternal life, and why is it something I can have today, and not only in the future?
- 3) Do I truly know God? What does this mean? What is the difference between knowing God and knowing about him?
- 4) How the path of life which the Psalmist speaks of really what it means to have everlasting life?

**II. The Comfort and Joy this Gives Today**

**A. First of all, it brings us genuine safety and refuge as we travel through this dangerous world.**

**Psalm 16:1 (NIV)** Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.

1. The eternal God is our refuge.
2. Our comfort comes from trusting that nothing will separate us from his power and love.

**B. Secondly, as we travel life's path with God, we find joy in his blessings and greater joy in belonging to him.**

**Psalm 16:2 (NIV)** I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."

1. In verse two the Psalmist speaks of having "no good thing" outside of God.
  - a. That doesn't mean that he didn't enjoy the earthly blessings God gave him.
  - b. It meant that he enjoyed them as blessings.
  - c. As he enjoyed them, he thanked God.
  - d. Because he called God his Lord, we know he used those blessings for God's purpose.
2. Furthermore, the Psalmist found his greatest joy not in what he owned, but in the fact that he and everything he owned belonged to God.

**Psalm 16:3-4 (NIV)** As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

- a. To be a saint or holy one means to belong to God and to find our comfort and joy in that.
- b. Those who go after other gods are those who find their joy in the idols of this world and not in God.
- c. Jesus spoke of modern-day idols in Matthew 6:24

**Matthew 6:24 (NIV)** "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

- d. As we think about modern day idols, C. S. made a lot of sense when he said in his book The Problem of Pain, "Heaven offers nothing that a mercenary soul can desire. It is safe to tell the pure in heart that they shall see God, for only the pure in heart want to."

**C. Thirdly, we have the comfort of knowing God rules our lives.**

1. The Psalmist trusted that the Lord of all controlled the events of his life.
2. Our lives are not determined by luck and pluck. (that is, by chance or hard work)
3. God determines our future.

**Questions:**

- 1) What are some dangers, griefs, or challenges I am facing in my life today? How do I find comfort in knowing God is with me?
- 2) How do I approach the blessings God has given me? Do I think that I am just lucky to have them? Do I think that I have them because I am smarter or work harder than others? Or do I truly see them as blessings from God? How does this affect how I use them? What is God's greatest blessing to me?

- 3) What idols are challenging my desire for God? How am I fighting those challenges? Can I understand C. S. Lewis' point that those who do not value God and their lives with him today really will not appreciate heaven?
- 4) How does it comfort me to know that God rules my life and has a plan for me? If I believe this why should I work even harder to accomplish his will and calling for my life than those who believe that they determine their own future? What is so dangerous about believing in luck, and why do those who do often waste their years accomplishing nothing?

### III. The Hope It Gives for the Future

#### A. We have hope if we trust God's promises.

**Psalm 16:6 (NIV)** The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

1. According to the title of this Psalm, it was written by David.
  - a. At God's command Samuel anointed David king.
  - b. But he didn't become king right away, and Saul remained king.
  - c. David was loyal to Saul.
  - d. Despite that fact Saul tried to kill him, forcing him to run for his life hiding in caves without food or drink.
  - e. Yet David's trusted God's promise.
  - f. And in his time God made him king.
2. We who have everlasting life must also trust God promise that our path of life will lead us to a delightful inheritance.
  - a. As those who trust in Jesus, we have even more reason that David to trust God's promises.
  - b. That is because he sealed those promises by the death and resurrection of Jesus his only Son.

**Romans 8:32 (NIV)** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

#### B. We will keep trusting God's promises, if we also trust that he will guide us to receive them.

**Psalm 16:7-8 (NIV)** I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

1. When Samuel anointed David as king, God's Spirit rested on him.

**1 Samuel 16:13 (NIV)** So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power.

2. The same Spirit also rests on God's people today, giving us wisdom and guidance.
3. When Jesus promised to give his disciples the Holy Spirit to be with them always, he said in **John 14:26**

**John 14:26 (NIV)** But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

4. Not only do we look forward to everlasting life with God, he guides us there down the path everlasting path of life.
5. He doesn't force us to follow him, but instead encourages us in our faith.
6. And when we stray from that path of faith, his grace gently draws back.

#### C. There is a day when we will reach the end of our path and our faith will become sight.

1. As those travel the path of life, our death becomes the doorway to a continued and better life with God.

**Psalm 16:9-11 (NIV)** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

2. Death is not the end.
3. The one who guides us will fill us with joy in his presence, and we will see him face to face.

**1 Corinthians 13:12 (NIV)** Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

#### D. Revelation 22: 1- 5 gives us a picture of what we'll see on that day.

**Revelation 22:1-5 (NIV)** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

1. The river symbolizes the Holy Spirit who has been guiding and upholding us as we traveled down the path of life.
2. The fruit of the tree represents the fruit of his work in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
3. And as he completes his work, he heals us of sin and death.
4. For sin and darkness will be no more, and we'll bask in light and life of God.
5. The street in the middle of the city leads directly to the throne of God, where our king will name us his children and we will rule with him for all eternity.

#### Questions:

- 1) How does trusting God's promises for my future give me hope and joy today?
- 2) How does trusting and knowing that the Holy Spirit is guiding me to receive all his promises help me to trust them?
- 3) How does realizing what Jesus did to save me help me to trust God's promises?
- 4) What about the description we read of heaven in Revelation 22 is especially meaningful and precious to me?
- 5) How is focusing on God's presence with me and all who are on the path of life more fruitful than dwelling on what will happen to those not on this path?

In **Matthew 7:13-14** Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Rather than speculate about the end of other people's paths, let us, who believe in life everlasting continue to follow the path of life we know and call others to join us.