

Eternal Life

Matthew 19:16- And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? (KJV)

The Kingdom of God and eternal life are the ultimate goals pursued by believers. Remaining faithful to the Lord God is essential in seeking the Heavenly Kingdom. Repentance is necessary throughout life to remain on the narrow path. (Mt.7:13-14) Joy exists in faithfully living in Christ from Baptism until departure from this life. The Lord's love, mercy and forgiveness enable the believer to experience joy.

Mark 10:30- But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. (KJV)

The commitment to follow Jesus Christ as King and as God begins at Baptism. Faithfulness to Christ is to continue throughout the remaining days of earthly life. Holy Confession and Communion enable believers to maintain union with Christ. The hunger in the soul motivates believers to desire continued union with Jesus. Joy arises when the believer is forgiven and receives Jesus' Body and Blood.

John 6:68- Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (KJV)

God's Holy Church preserves, protects and proclaims Jesus' words of eternal life. Faithful believers cherish hearing Jesus Christ's words from the Holy Gospel. The attentive believer's heart, mind and soul are enriched by the Holy Gospel. The Divine Liturgy offers faithful believers a foretaste of the Heavenly Kingdom. The goals of the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life puts all else in perspective.

Romans 6:23- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)

Each thought, word and deed are to be measured against life's ultimate goals. Perils and temptations in the world are to be repelled and constantly avoided. Evil will appear in attractive forms and be deceptive resulting in death to the soul. Constant nourishment from the Lord Jesus Christ keeps the believer vigilant. Guarding the heart, mind and soul is necessary to stay firmly united with Christ.

Jude 1:21- Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (KJV)

Every moment of every day is an opportunity to remain united with Jesus Christ. Constant prayer and attentiveness keep the mind focused on the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Church offers teachings and Divine services to aid the faithful believer. Eternal life is achievable for believers firmly desiring to be with Christ in eternity. God's Holy Church offers the necessary prayers for eternal life for all believers.

Mid-Pentecost. St. Theodore; Theodore of Vrshac; Martyr Vukashin; Vikentije and Martyr Surdal. May 16/29, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic