

## The Hope of Eternal Life

**John 3:15-That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.** (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures have multiple references to eternal life benefitting believers. Eternal life is of primary interest when a dear loved one departs earthly life. Family and friends pray for the departed to experience eternal life in Jesus Christ. Believers hunger for eternal life in their journey beginning at the Baptismal font. The path to eternal life is defined and illumined for Christ's faithful followers.

**John 4:36-And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.** (KJV)

Ideally believers begin seriously seeking eternal life at a young age and continue. Repentance is always in order when a believer departs from the path to eternal life. Sincere repentance is necessary to begin anew in Christ and travel the narrow path. Christ welcomes sinners choosing to repent and begin anew seeking eternal life. Prayer and fasting facilitate the journey to God's Kingdom and eternal life.

**John 5:39-Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.** (KJV)

The Scriptures offer reassurance about the existence of eternal life for believers. Jesus Christ's known words give believers a firm basis to believe in eternal life. The Gospel teachings serve as instructive directions for pursuing eternal life. Mature believers give careful thought to the necessities for seeking eternal life. Challenges often arise in daily life affecting the believer's pursuit of eternal life.

**John 6:54-Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.** (KJV)

Partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ is fundamental to eternal life. Jesus Christ's defeat of death and resurrection lifts mindful thoughts to eternal life. Eternal life serves as the basis for hope to believers journeying through earthly life. Jesus Christ removed the limitations of earthly death by His glorious Resurrection. Believers living seriously in Jesus Christ during earthly life seek eternal life.

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

The Holy Scriptures offer firm references for believers to formulate their actions. The Gospel teachings nourish the hearts, minds and souls of attentive believers. The Scriptures facilitate life's journey to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life. Eternal life connotes lasting joy for believers blessed to participate for eternity. Joy in the Resurrected Jesus Christ is not limited to the boundaries of earthly life.

**John 10:28-And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (KJV)**

Eternal life comes through filling the heart, mind and soul with Jesus Christ.

The Holy Scriptures reveal eternal life is entirely possible for believers.

The hunger in the soul welcomes and embraces eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Turning to Jesus Christ in prayer keeps the believer on the path to life eternal.

God's Holy Church is where to learn more about eternal life and pursue it.

The Church offers the teachings and the environment to educate for eternal life.

**John 12:25-He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. (KJV)**

Believers seek to understand what is ahead when a loved one departs this life,

Believers maintain hope when a departed loved one has been faithful to Christ.

Serious believers draw strength and comfort knowing eternal life is possible.

The Church proclaims Christ's teachings on eternal life through the centuries.

Christ's Resurrection proves His power over death and the limits of the grave.

Knowing that Jesus conquered death comforts believers mourning a loved one.

**John 17:2-As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. (KJV)**

Every person facing an earthly death can find hope in Jesus Christ for eternal life.

Repentance makes eternal life possible for believers cleansing their souls in Christ.

Prayers in behalf of departed loved ones are valued in God's Holy Church.

Saints of the Church teach of the value of prayer for loved ones departed this life.

The Church offers the funeral service and memorial prayers for departed believers.

Constant prayers for the departed in the Church verifies belief in their value.

**John 17:3-And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (KJV)**

Eternal life opens the believer's mind to the goodness and greatness of the Lord God.

Limits of earthly death were shattered when the Crucified Christ rose from the tomb.

Believers have been learning about eternal life in Jesus Christ for centuries.

Christ's teachings on eternal life have withstood criticism with the passing of time.

Belief in eternal life exists deep in the hearts, minds and souls of Christ's followers.

Declaring that "Christ is Risen" manifests the hope of eternal life for all believers.

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St. Andrew, Archbishop of Crete; Hieromartyr Sava of Upper Karlovac.

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