

1. We'll meet the whole month of June. On June 25, we'll meet in the choir practice room.
2. LifeLines won't meet in July or August. We'll resume 9/12, after Labor Day. Hope to see you then!
3. Next week's LifeLine is Philippians 4:13. *DON'T make assumptions about this verse!!!* You might be surprised!

LifeLines

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

John 17:3

**And this is eternal life, that they know You,
the only true God, & Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

WHY WE'RE HERE

Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

Chapter 17 is a beautiful prayer. It's often referred to as **Jesus' Priestly Prayer**. Jesus is praying to His Father. It's the longest prayer of Jesus' in any of the gospels. Consider reading the entire chapter with great thought. It allows you inside the mind of our Saviour as He speaks His thoughts. Jesus is praying as a man, as well as a Son to His Father.

In the last verses of Chapter 16, Jesus had a frank discussion with His disciples about leaving them & going to the Father. Now, He's talking with & praying to the Father on *their* behalf, as well as praying for Himself! In 17:2, He confirmed that God has “**given Him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all**” whom God had given Him. In our verse, Jesus declares exactly what eternal life is. Most people think eternal life “happens” after death. As Christians, we must know the truth of this wonderful LifeLine.

Verses 4 & 5 are a true intercessory petition. Ponder & appreciate these words of Jesus to His Father: “*I glorified You on earth by finishing*

the work that You gave Me to do. So now, Father, glorify *Me* in Your own Presence with *the glory that I had in Your Presence* before the world existed.” (Italics added.) Let’s *get* this! ***Jesus wants to go Home!***

After speaking these words, Jesus & the disciples crossed through the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS

NIV, ESV & many others are the same

NLT

And this is the way to have eternal life – to know You, the only true God, & Jesus Christ, the One You sent to earth.

MSG

And this is the real & eternal life: That they know You, the one & only true God, & Jesus Christ, whom You sent.

AMP

Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true (supreme & sovereign) God, & (in the same manner know) Jesus (as the) Christ whom You have sent.

SELAH

DEFINITIONS

Eternal life – Like the Trinity, existing without beginning or end, always existing, lasting forever. Eternity is present at all times.

Everlasting life – Life that had a beginning, will last forever & have no end.

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

And this is eternal life... Faith, belief & salvation bring eternal *life*, in contrast to the eternal *death* of being separated forever from God.

Jesus doesn't say eternal life is going to heaven. That's what most people think, but that's only part of the story. *Eternal life is knowing God!* It's inheriting the Kingdom of God's salvation *now*. Satan doesn't want us to know that our belief & faith result in eternal life *now*.

Eternal life is living in God's Presence, with the Holy Spirit in us. It's the restored life God originally intended for Adam & Eve. One day, we will dwell in heaven with Him throughout eternity. *Eternal life is the life that God lives.*

That they know You... The moment we believe, we know God. The moment we know God, we become immortal! Remember, God *wants* us to know Him! Here, the Greek word for "know" implies a level of intimacy. Our intimacy with God is revealed in our love for Him, reverence toward Him, obedience, honor, gratitude & supreme affection for Him. We know Him, through experience, as lawgiver, sovereign, parent, friend, & much more. Knowing Him is to yield our soul to Him & strive to obey His law. This connection between God & a true believer is profound, rooted in a close & deep connection. This is intimacy. It's the fullest experience a person can have.

The only true God... Our God is the true God. Jesus wants to be sure we recognize God as the *only* true God. There are plenty of false gods & idols. Our God gives us our true life, which is eternal. This is being a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

When we know God, we know the reality of sin & its inability to satisfy. We even know our tendency to run after idols from time to time. We know we have a tendency to run from the Father & pursue our own comfort & desires; **AND**, we know He'll open His arms to welcome us home when we seek forgiveness & repent. His love for us never ends!

& Jesus Christ whom You have sent... To know God is to know the Son. Both are part of the reality of eternal life. This is the first time Jesus is recorded as referring to Himself as "Christ." To know Jesus is to see Him in all His perfection as God *and* man, Mediator, Prophet, Priest, Savior, Messiah & King. In the *Word made flesh* (Jesus), we hear the voice of mercy, forgiveness, love & fatherhood which come to us as the breath of

life. *Jesus is the sinner's way to eternal life! Because of Jesus, our eternal life is a free gift!* In Him, is the only true source of eternal life & joy.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES

Psalm 9:10, And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Jeremiah 10:10, But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God & the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, & the nations cannot endure His indignation.

Matthew 25:40 & 45-46, And the King will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family, you did it to Me." ... Then He will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

1 Corinthians 8:6, Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things & for whom we exist, & one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things & through whom we exist.

John 1:12-13, But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but (*of the will*) of God.

John 3:36, Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath.

John 5:24, Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears My word & believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, & does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 5:39-40, “You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; & it is they that testify on My behalf. *Yet you refuse to come to Me to have life. (Italics added.)*

John 6:57, Just as the Living Father sent Me, & I live because of the Father, so whoever eats Me will live because of Me.

John 6:68-69, Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have to believe & to know that You are the holy One of God.

John 10:27-28, My sheep hear My voice. I know them, & they follow Me. I give them eternal life, & they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of My hand.

John 12:49-50, For I have not spoken on My own, but the Father who sent Me has Himself given Me a commandment about what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told Me.

Acts 4:12, There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.

Titus 1:16, They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Titus 3:4-7, But when the goodness & loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy, through the water of rebirth & renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13, And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, & this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in

the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:20, And we know that the Son of God has come & has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; & we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God & eternal life.

SUMMARY

Our verse contains the sum & essence of the Christian religion as it's distinguished from false plans on which men have presumed to obtain eternal life. Christians approach God through Jesus, who is equal to the Father, became incarnate & died to reconcile us to God.

It was the great work of Christ to come to this world *purposefully*, live, die, & be resurrected in order to give eternal life to all believers, so we might live through Him. He came to show us how to “*live unto God.*” This means living according to the First Commandment, “**You shall have no other gods before Me**” (Exodus 20:3). When we are born of the water & the Spirit, we receive the *life* He came to infuse into us –

Eternal Life! Hallelujah!

***Let this verse be a LifeLine for you, &
Let's Keep Learning More!***

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

References: www.openbible.info; biblegateway.com; connectusfund.org; bibleref.com; en.m.wikipedia.org; differencebetween.com; biblehub.com; spurgeon.org;