

Sermon Series: Storm Shelter: Psalms of God's Embrace
To be used with: Session Two: The Shelter of God's Salvation
Sermon Title Possibilities:
 Living for Eternity

Scripture: John 17:2-3

Connection to Unit Theme: *Storm Shelter: Psalms of God's Embrace* is a study of the comfort we find in the Old Testament book of Psalms. Session 2 is called "The Shelter of God's Salvation," and focuses on Psalm 27:1-6. The point of the study is "God Himself is my salvation."

This sermon, based on Jesus' prayer in John 17, reveals that eternal life is the ultimate result of salvation.

Introduction: Jesus not only gave his life for you; he gives his life to you. As one early church father said, "He became what we are to make us what he is." At your second birth God upgraded your life. He ushered in his life to you. You now have a spiritual life to complete your physical life. This life is not *bios*, life but with a termination point. This life is *zoë*, best defined as life as God knows it. Life that is eternal. The fullness of life that belongs to God is now yours.

I. The Definition of Eternal Life

- A. Eternal life is God's free gift to those who believe on his Son.
- B. Eternal life has been given to all, but only a few receive it. It is received on the basis of faith and trust in Jesus alone for your salvation.

II. The Description of Eternal Life.

- A. It's like trying to describe physical life, words are inadequate.
- B. We must not think of it in organizational terms but in organic terms.

III. The Determination of Eternal Life

- A. Eternal life is determined by a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- B. Four realities are present.
 1. The relationship is identifiable with "the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (v. 3).
 2. The relationship is intimate. Jesus says "... this is eternal life: that they may *know* you . . ." (v. 3, emphasis mine). The word *know* is a present tense verb, referring to a personal, intimate relationship with the living God, which grows as the years press on.
 3. The relationship is instantaneous. The idea of eternal life does not refer to one day going to heaven. It includes heaven, but eternal life is a present reality. "This *is* eternal life" (v. 3) not "this *shall be* eternal life."
 4. The relationship is immortal. The life that God gives implies that what he has started he will never stop. Even though you face illness, disease, and death, this life is never over.

IV. The Decision Regarding Eternal Life

- A. Be honest. Have you truly entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ? A lot of people are trusting in their good works, their church attendance, their family heritage, or their religious activities for their salvation. While all those things are noble the one thing that makes one a believer is their personal trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Have you transferred your trust from you efforts to what Jesus did for you on the cross to save you and to give you eternal life?
- B. Be sure. One of the gripping fears of many religious people is the uncertainty of knowing their eternal destination. Many people go throughout their earthly existence, hoping and wishing that when they die they will have eternal life. John wrote in his first letter, “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 5:13 NIV). Do you know? Are you sure? That knowledge and surety comes from having trusted Christ alone for your salvation. Based on God’s Word you can know, you can be sure.
- C. Be ready. Peter admonished, “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV). Preparation for death occurs during life. Death is certain. The uncertainty is in the preparation.

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