

Study guide

Lesson 3

ENJOYING GIFTS

2 Corinthians 5:17

WE MUST ENJOY OUR GIFTS BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT ALL LAST MUCH TIME

Last week we celebrated mother. If you gave her flowers, you can see what they now look like. Some have begun to wither, right? What about those who took their mother or wife to a good restaurant; has the hunger come back? Of course.

Sometimes, gifts do not last as long as we wish they would. Not all gifts are the same. Today we are going to consider the gift of eternal life.

There are three gifts that last forever and you will see that they are luxurious.

NEW CREATION - 2 Cor. 5:17

A new gift is a thousand times more meaningful than a used gift or a gift of second category. The Christian life is the same. The Christian life is not a recycled life not is it a second-class life. On the contrary, in Christ, life begins again in every sense. For example, apart from eternal life, there are people who receive a miracle in their earthly lives. Some are physically healed. Others are freed from addictions. Others are empowered to live quality lives with their family. There is nothing better than beginning a new.

Without Christ, the passed could have been totally marked by sin and evil. New life in Christ totally erases that reality. In Christ, we live without a passed that would hold us back or a guilt that would follow us. In Christ we are made totally new. **The world needs a new beginning and you and I have the answer.**

WE WILL BE AS HE IS - 1 John 3:2

There not only exists a promise of eternal life for the believer, but that promise also comes with privileges. To be like Him is the most important promise for the believer. Every day we understand more and more the character of Christ, and we are being conformed to His image.

Not that we will be "identical" to Him, but we will enjoy His presence forever. This is what it means to "be like He is." We will not be gods, but rather, we will enjoy the eternal blessings that God has in store for us. We will be like Him in the sense of never being separated from His presence. This is eternal life. What is this like? We must wait. This gift is not yet open completely! Don't worry. When Jesus comes, we will enjoy Him completely. **The world needs hope and you and I have the answer.**

THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH - 1 John 3:14

Just as there are gifts that do not last long, sadly, many people only hear the message of salvation partially. When they hear that Jesus wants to save them, many people only think that the Lord is going to resolve their temporary problems; such as helping them financially, or fixing a personal emergency. Even though these may be some of the immediate benefits of salvation, they are not the most important. It is because of that precise reason that many people are disappointed with God if a temporary problem is not resolved. They think that is why the Lord saved them. The true gift of salvation is an eternal life without the possibility of death. This final promise is something that we can still not totally understand. We do not understand because we are tied to this earthly life with its inevitable physical death and can therefore not comprehend the magnitude of this gift. Be assured that death will not come back to interfere in our lives. Even those who are now "dead" will enjoy that final promise. **The world needs to feel sure, and you and I have the answer.**

CONCLUSION: ENJOY YOUR ETERNAL GIFT – John 3:16

In spiritual terms, to receive a gift is to "believe." That is why the most famous verse in the Bible is John 3:16 and is so admired. Enjoying the gift of eternal life begins right here on earth. When we believe that Jesus Christ is the "gift" from God for the world and we make it our personally, we begin to enjoy the benefits mentioned in this lesson.

Today and forever, we are going to live under salvation and not under condemnation as mentioned in John 3:17. By the simple fact of having received the gift of God for our lives, we have passed from condemnation to salvation. In this

lesson, we learned about three of these benefits. Do you remember them? We are new creations, we will be like Him, and we will not see eternal death. This is something very special and is beneficial for all of those who have believed in Jesus.

We invite you to take advantage of this salvation and all that it offers. Live your new life. Walk as Christ walks. Above all, do not be afraid of death, because in Christ you will live forever!

Enjoy the Gift!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

Ice-breaker questions

Do you keep a gift that you have had for many years? What is it and how long have you kept it?

Questions for Life Group:

Which are the gifts that God gives that last forever?

Do you enjoy those gifts from God?

How would a person feel having received those gifts from God?

Would it change their lives?

Prayer