

(John 17:1-8, NIV84)

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me."

There is a natural tendency, on the part of every human being, to want to "qualify" for eternal life based on how we live. This natural opinion of the law leads us to believe that if we are "good" we will get to heaven. The problem is that we can never be good enough. Try as we might, we fail to live up to the standard of perfection that God has set for every human.

This truth is difficult for people to swallow. Most people, when looking at their lives, think that they should be given credit for their efforts at living devoutly. They may not even be Christian, but they feel that their sincerity in worshiping and serving their gods should be taken into account and qualify them to some measure of paradise when they die. This is why, if you've ever told a non-Christian that only those who believe in Jesus Christ for salvation will inherit heaven, you may have gotten a look of indignation. People think it is unfair and even cruel to suggest that only Christians are going to heaven, that only Christians "live lives that are worthy in God's sight." They will argue: "We are good people too!"

Nevertheless, the only way that Christians "live lives that are worthy in God's sight," is through faith in Jesus. Jesus' perfect righteousness is ours through faith. Because we "know" Him (that is: we believe that His perfect life and innocent death paid for all our sins) we have eternal life.

There is only one Way to heaven and it is through Jesus Christ, and Him alone. Rejoice today that Jesus has found you and made you His own, and in that knowledge let your thankfulness, joy and love shine to those around you, that, by God's grace, some lost and wandering soul may be led to know Jesus and what He has done to save them.

Righteous with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

June 4

This Is the Life!

This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

"This is the life!" How often have we heard people give vent to their exuberant feelings in those four short words. Stretched out on the sun-baked sands of a breeze-swept shore, or relaxing in the cooling shade of a spreading tree, they breathe deeply of the bracing air and sigh: "Ah, this is the life!" This is the life that refreshes and rebuilds.

In a similar, yet completely different, sense, the trusting child of God relaxes upon the sure foundation of a Savior's promises, and says to all the world: "This is the life!" He has found a life-in the very midst of life-which refreshes and sustains his soul in every changing circumstance.

That life he has found in Jesus, his only Savior. Jesus says: "This is life eternal, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." He who has God as his Father and Jesus as his Savior has moved from death to life; and the life into which he has entered is a glorious life that will never end. It is a "life eternal".

Have we found the secret of this spiritually-invigorating life in Christ? It is the secret of a penitent heart turned upward to God for daily mercy, for forgiveness in Jesus' name, for strength to carry the burden just another day. It is also the secret of a life that is constantly reaching out to others, bringing help and hope and healing in the name of him who loved us.

That is the life which is ours through faith in the precious Gospel promise-the life of which Horatius Bonar wrote those immortal lines:

Thy Word first made me feel my sin, It taught me to believe;
Then, in believing, peace I found, And now, I live! I LIVE!

May that be the joy and rejoicing of each of us. Having found our life in Christ-we live, we live!

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)