

We begin our new year with a subject - our destiny - the future of a/the believer in Christ; the subject involves eschatology - but is not actually such - the resurrection of Jesus makes this event an already existent happening. The life Christ came to give to those who are his is the message of the apostles - John 1:3 *Through him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through him. What has come into being in him was life, life that was the light of men;* 1 John 1 *We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us*

This issue of “life” is the reason behind all of God’s dealings: Duet 30:11-20. John 10:10; 20:30-31. This life must include a discussion of “resurrection” and of the “Parousia” or appearing of Christ - commonly called “The Second Advent or Coming.” But for now - this is a life that we do not have naturally - and comes as a work of God - and excels the present existence - often translated as “eternal life.”

^{TNIV} John 5:37-40 *The Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the One he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

ὁ πέμψας με πατήρ ἐκεῖνος μεμαρτύρηκεν (indicative perfect active) περὶ ἐμοῦ. οὔτε φωνὴν αὐτοῦ πώποτε ἀκηκόατε (indicative perfect active) οὔτε εἶδος αὐτοῦ ἐωράκατε (indicative perfect active) καὶ τὸν λόγον αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔχετε ἐν ὑμῖν μένοντα (verb participle present active accusative masculine singular) ὅτι ὄν ἀπέστειλεν ἐκεῖνος, τούτῳ ὑμεῖς οὐ πιστεύετε. ἐραυνᾶτε (verb indicative present active 2nd person plural from δοκέω of subjective opinion *think, presume, suppose*) τὰς γραφάς, ὅτι ὑμεῖς δοκεῖτε ἐν αὐταῖς ζωὴν αἰώνιον ἔχειν· καὶ ἐκεῖναί εἰσιν αἱ μαρτυροῦσαι περὶ ἐμοῦ· καὶ οὐ θέλετε (indicative present active 2nd person plural - they have not willed to come **θέλω**) ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με ἵνα ζωὴν ἔχητε

1. Jesus is saying that scriptural study has a goal - The Scripture teach -
2. The goal is “life”
3. Life is found in HIM
 - a. None of us has seen or heard God (though many claim this)
 - b. Yet God has spoken - born witness - scriptures written by/from men
 - i. We believe the scriptures contain life
 - ii. Those included here studied them seriously/strenuously
4. Jesus will say: John 5:21-29; 3:34-36; 4:13-14; 6:26-29, 32-40; I John 5:20
5. John 3:16-17 *This is the way God loved the world: He gave his only Son, so that anyone believing in him should not perish but have ageless life. God did not sent his Son into creation to condemn it, but rather to deliver creation through him.*

Christ taught us that “The Knowledge of God” was the key to ageless life: *This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent.* (John 17:3)

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