

# LAYING HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE

(1 Tim 6:12 KJV) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

(1 Tim 6:19 KJV) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

## 1. A BASIC MESSAGE: PREPARING FOR ETERNITY.

### 1. *Sometimes we lose sight as to why we are here.*

1. God has a purpose for our lives on this earth.
2. Preparation for eternity.

### 2. *Eternity is a long time.*

1. Eternal life is a long time.
2. Eternal damnation is a long time.

### 3. *Present inconveniences not worthy to be compared.*

1. (Rom 8:18 KJV) For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
2. (2 Cor 4:17 KJV) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (2 Cor 4:18 KJV) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

### 4. *It takes more faith to believe in life after death than life now--we can quickly see the results of the latter.*

## 2. THIS PRESENT WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME.

### 1. *Distinction between the earth and this world.*

#### 1. Earth.

##### 1. *Definition.*

- (1) Arable land.
- (2) The ground, the earth as a standing place.
- (3) The main land as opposed to the sea or water.
- (4) The earth as opposed to the heavens.
- (5) The inhabited earth, the abode of men and animals.

#### 2. World.

##### 1. *kosmos.* The most frequent occurrence.

- (1) A harmonious arrangement, constitution, or order.
- (2) The ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ.
- (3) World affairs, the aggregate of things earthly; the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments riches, advantages, pleasures, which seduces from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ.

##### 2. *aion* (ahee-ohn').

- (1) Refers to an age; a period of time.
- (2) Used when reference is made to the beginning or end of the world; also used when referring to the "world to come."

2. ***This present world.***

1. Not to love.

1. (1 John 2:15 KJV) Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:16 KJV) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (1 John 2:17 KJV) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
2. (2 Tim 4:10 KJV) For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

2. God's desire to deliver us out of the world.

1. (Gal 1:4 KJV) Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:
2. (John 17:14 KJV) I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (John 17:15 KJV) I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. (John 17:16 KJV) They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

3. IS THERE MORE AFTER THIS LIFE?

1. ***How do we know this is not all there is?***

2. ***The resurrection.***

1. (Job 14:14 KJV) If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.
2. (Isa 26:19 KJV) Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

3. ***What happens to believers upon death?***

1. Present with the Lord. (2 Cor 5:6 KJV) Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (2 Cor 5:7 KJV) (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (2 Cor 5:8 KJV) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
2. State of consciousness. (Luke 20:37 KJV) Now that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. (Luke 20:38 KJV) For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

4. ***Heaven and the kingdom of God.***

4. **DISTINCTIVES: THAT WHICH MAKES US DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS WHO PREACH ETERNAL LIFE.**
1. ***The way we live--a holy life.***
    1. (Rom 6:22 KJV) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.
    2. (1 Th 4:7 KJV) For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
    3. (Titus 2:12 KJV) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
  2. ***Power of the Spirit to live that life.***
5. **A NEW DISTINCTIVE: THE UNFOLDING, PROGRESSIVE, REVELATION OF GOD.**
1. ***Light becomes brighter.*** (Prov 4:18 KJV) But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.
  2. ***Growing in grace and knowledge.*** (2 Pet 3:18 KJV) But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.
  3. ***There is more in God.***
    1. Received the Holy Ghost? (Acts 19:1 KJV) And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, (Acts 19:2 KJV) He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. (Acts 19:3 KJV) And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. (Acts 19:4 KJV) Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (Acts 19:5 KJV) When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
    2. The Holy Ghost came upon them (Acts 19:6 KJV) And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.
  4. ***The further work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.***
    1. Our comforter. (John 14:26 KJV) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
    2. Our guide. (John 16:13 KJV) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.
  5. ***Abundant life--the power of the Holy Spirit that brings abundant life.***
    1. Jesus has come to bring us life and that more abundantly.

2. Abundant life is joy, peace, happiness in this life.
3. Abundant life is healing, deliverance, and prosperity.
4. Abundant life is the blessings of God upon our lives.
6. ***God has given us a little of heaven to go to heaven in.***
  1. The will of God in earth as in heaven.
  2. Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
7. ***So shall we ever be with the Lord. Comfort one another with these words.***

6. THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE.

1. ***It is a gift of God.***
  1. (John 3:16 KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
  2. (Rom 6:23 KJV) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
2. ***Comes by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.***
  1. (John 3:16 KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
  2. (1 John 5:11 KJV) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (1 John 5:12 KJV) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. (1 John 5:13 KJV) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
3. ***We are to forsake all others.***
4. ***We are to follow the Lord.***
5. ***We are to lay hold on eternal life.***
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6. ***We are to keep ourselves in the love of God.*** (Jude 1:21 KJV) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
7. ***There is no other way to go.*** (John 6:68 KJV) Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.