

God's Eternal Promise

God tells us very clearly in the Bible that He created us, He loves us, and He wants to spend eternity with us.

This can be explained in just one verse – John 3:16: ***“For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”***

What does this mean?

- **“For God loved the world so much...”**

God loves everyone in the world, regardless of who they are. It is His desire to spend forever with us, but there is a problem we have as a part of our human nature – sin.

“For everyone has sinned, we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23)

As this verse explains, sin is defined as anything we do that falls short of God’s perfectly right and just standard.

Until our debt of sin has been paid for, it separates us from God.

- **“...that He gave His one and only Son...”**

God sent His Son Jesus to earth to pay our debt of sin. The cost was His own life, which He gave willingly as a sacrifice.

Jesus is the One Who “takes away the sin of the world”. (John 1:29)

When Jesus died on the cross, His death and resurrection paid in full for all of the wrong that we have ever done or will ever do in our lives.

- **“...so that everyone who believes in Him...”**

People often mistakenly believe that if we need to earn God’s approval by being “good enough”, doing the right things, or doing more good than bad.

However, Jesus does not tell us we need to earn the way to heaven based on our own goodness. He only tells us to “believe in Him” for eternal life, because His goodness is sufficient.

“God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this, it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

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• “...will not perish...”

Jesus promises that if we believe in Him, we will “*not perish*” – which is another way of saying we will not be condemned and go to hell.

“God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.”
(John 3:17)

• “...but have eternal life.”

If we believe, we will not perish because we have “*eternal life*” – the promise that our soul will remain with Him forever. This everlasting life begins the moment we believe in Jesus for it.

“He who believes in Me has everlasting life.” (John 6:47)

God’s Word is clear that if *anyone simply believes* the words of Jesus found in John 3:16, they will not perish but have eternal life with Him in heaven!

This truth about Jesus does not just affect our eternal destination, but also life today. He desires to have a relationship with each one who believes in Him!

Jesus says: “...*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*” (John 10:10)

If you would like to know more about believing in Jesus for eternal life or want to know Him better, you can:

- Spend time reading God’s Word and talking to Him (in prayer) frequently.
- Find and attend a church that clearly teaches the Word of God.
- Find and attend Bible Study. Spending time with other people who know Jesus will help you learn more about God and the hope He offers you.

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