

## Eternal Life Part 2

John 17:1-5

6 Sep 09

I invite you to take your Bibles and open up to John chapter 17. The Gospel of John chapter 17. We're going to complete today a two part series we started last time on eternal life, in the morning, and talking about eternal punishment in the evening. I was encouraged by the response last Sunday night to the message on eternal punishment. Maybe not the favorite subject for everybody to study. But it is a subject that gets talked about a lot. You get asked a lot of questions about it, so it is important for us to know what the Bible says on that. It's equally important for us to know exactly what the Bible teaches on eternal life, and that's what we want to direct our attention to this morning as we look at John chapter 17 verses one through five. John 17 verses one through five. Let me read those verses for us. It says, "Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.'"

Let's just pray again as we come to God's Word. Father as we come to this section of scripture, we hear the words of our Savior as He spoke them to You, His Father, and He speaks about this matter of eternal life. Father, we know that this is a great subject, it's a vast subject. Lord, help us to grasp the significance of it today as we consider these things from Your word. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

As the apostle John wrote this gospel, his gospel, he knew that he couldn't include everything that Jesus had said and done. In fact John tells us in the very last verse of this book that if all the works of Christ were recorded and reported in detail the whole world wouldn't be big enough to contain all the books that would be written. If the vast number of things that Christ had done were reported in detail there wouldn't be enough room to hold it all. So John had to decide what he was going to include in this particular book about Christ and he tells us how that decision was made in the last verse of chapter 20. Chapter 20 verse 31 he said, "But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

So John, under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, highlighted certain things about Christ. Things He said, things He did, that demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ, that He is the Son of God. And in showing us these things we might believe in Him and have life; have life in Christ. So life, the life that Christ gives, the life that we have in Him, that is the dominant theme of this gospel, the gospel of John. It's all about the life that Christ has. All about the life Christ gives. In fact, let me just give you a quick survey of all that this gospel says about life in Christ. Starting in chapter three, starting in verse 14 it says, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life." And this next verse you might have heard before. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have

[what?] eternal life.” It’s all about life. As Jesus met with the woman at the well, we’re told in John chapter four and verse 14 He said to that woman, “Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” In verse 36 of chapter four He said to His disciples, “Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal.” It’s all about life. Eternal life in Christ.

Chapter five verse 21 it says, “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.” Verse 24, “Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but is passed out of death into life.”

To those who were not receiving Him, who were opposing Him, in verse 40 He said, “You are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.” Chapter six is filled with references to the life that Christ gives. Chapter six verse 27 says, “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.” Verse 33, “For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.” Verse 35 Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; He who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” Verse 40, “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise Him up on the last day.” Verse 47, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.” Verse 48, “I am the bread of life.” Verse 54, “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” Verse 63, “It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.” And Peter made this great profession in verse 68, “Simon Peter answered Him ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.’”

Are you getting the point? It’s all about the life. The life that Christ gives. The eternal life that can only be found in Him. We’re just getting warmed up. Chapter eight verse 12, “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying ‘I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.’” He’ll have the light of life. John chapter 10 verse 10 says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Verse 27, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” Verse 28, “And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

In chapter 11, standing near the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus says to Lazarus’s sister Martha, John 11:25, “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.’” He gives eternal life. Chapter 12 verse 25 He says, “He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.” So which would you rather have? Life here that you are going to lose, or a lost life here that results in eternal life? Chapter 12 verse 50 says, “I know that His commandment is eternal life.”

And in chapter 14 verse six, “ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’” It’s a dominant theme of the Gospel of John. The life, the eternal life, the abundant life that Christ gives to those who believe in Him. And here in chapter 17 verse three we’re

given a definition of that life. It has a quantity to it. It is eternal life. It's a life that lasts forever. But there's also a quality to it because this is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. There's the quality of it. It's knowing God. It's knowing Jesus Christ. That's what makes up this life. And that's what gives the eternal nature to this life. Because you're connected to, in relationship to one who has life. This speaks of a deep, intimate, personal knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. It's not just knowing facts about them. It's really knowing them.

And it is a present possession. As we read back in chapter five verse 24 where Jesus said "Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life." It's not something you get at some point in the future. It's something that you have the moment you believe. You come in to this knowledge, this relationship with God and Christ. And that relationship goes on forever; knowing them.

Now, as we come to the text that we're considering this morning, remember that John and the other apostles have been with Jesus for three years at this point. They have seen His works. They have heard His words. But at this point where we are connecting up with them, they are troubled. They're confused. They're very fearful. Why? Because they know that Jesus is about to leave them. And the leaving is going to involve a betrayal and it's going to involve a crucifixion. So their hearts are in turmoil. Chapters 13 through 16 record what we call the upper room discourse. Jesus spent the evening prior to his crucifixion with His disciples in the upper room of a home in the city of Jerusalem. And He has spent this time instructing them and comforting their troubled hearts. Chapter 17 records a prayer known as the high priestly prayer; a prayer spoken in the hearing of those disciples and a prayer largely for those disciples, for their benefit on their behalf. And in this opening section of that prayer we see Jesus once again referring to life, eternal life. And the question that the disciples might have been asking at this point, and a question that is still being asked today is: How secure is this eternal life? They are doubting. They are fearful. They are facing a significant change. Jesus is leaving. They had seen Jesus talk about life. They had heard him talk about life. They had seen Him give life. They saw Lazarus raised from the dead. But how secure is this life? Can I lose this life that Christ gives? Well, the opening verses of this prayer answer the question of the security of eternal life. And this is important not only theologically but very practically. And we're living in rapidly changing and very uncertain times. Is that fair to say? Change and uncertainty are all around us. So is this life that we have in Christ something that we can be absolutely certain about? Because if it is that makes a huge difference in the way in which we face this changing, uncertain world that we live in.

So I want us to look at this passage because I believe we can identify here in these first five verses, four reasons that our eternal life is absolutely secure. Four reasons our eternal life is secure. We looked at the first two last week. Let me just review them for you.

Reason number one that our eternal life is secure is because of Christ's glory at the cross. Verse one, "Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You.'" Jesus here is acknowledging here that the sovereignly predetermined hour has come. Christ's opponents, you'll remember, had wanted to seize Him on earlier occasions but had been unable to precisely because this hour, this predetermined hour, had not arrived

yet. We looked at some of those last time. For example, chapter seven verse 30 it says, "They were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come." Chapter eight verse 20 says, "These words he spoke and the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come." There was a predetermined hour and nothing could happen to him before that hour. But now the hour has come. Now the hour is here. Now the hour is upon Christ. The apex of redemptive history has arrived. The time for Christ to go to the cross. The hour is here. So Christ says glorify your Son. Now glory and crucifixion don't normally go together. To be crucified was a shameful, disgraceful way to die. But Christ's crucifixion was different from every other one. Christ's crucifixion was a triumphant victory. At the cross both the Father and the Son were glorified meaning that their attributes were fully displayed. At the cross we see God's righteousness, God's holiness, God's justice, as we see sin being dealt with, as it should be, as it deserves to be, as it's getting the wages that it has earned. We see God dealing in His holiness. But also at the cross we see His grace and His mercy and His love as provision is made for sinners to be reconciled to God, because Christ is standing in their place taking the judgment that their sin deserves. Therefore we see the infinite wisdom of God being displayed at the cross in a way that allows Him to both be just, and the justifier of sinners. He's not compromising his justice at all. Sin is being dealt with. Sin is being paid for. But it's being done in a way that allows him to justify sinners. Now that might be something you might like to say amen to. That's way cool.

What seems like a defeat is actually a powerful victory over sin, death, and Satan. This hour, this predetermined hour, it was an hour of glory. So your eternal life is secured by an event that fully displayed the glory of God and His Son. If it was something that could be lost, that would tarnish the glory of it. What secures our eternal life? The glory of the cross.

Second reason our eternal life is secure is found in verse two and that's because of Christ's authority because of the cross. "Even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life." Christ has authority because He went to the cross. He has authority over all flesh, all peoples, all nations. And He uses that authority by giving eternal life to everyone given to Him by the Father. Last time we spent a considerable amount of time looking at passages, especially at chapters six and 10, which also talk about the Father giving people to the Son and the Son securing their salvation. So this is how it works. The Father gives people to the Son, and then He doesn't take them back away again. They're secured. All that the Father gives are received by the Son and they are secured by the Son. He, Himself. The Son will raise them all up on the last day. Now let's just be reminded of that in one passage of chapter six verses 37 through 40 where Jesus says the same thing in 17:2 but in a fuller way. It says, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." Do you hear all of the security? Everyone that the Father gives will come and everyone who comes won't be cast out. There is total absolute security in the whole equation there. Verse 38, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." So the Father gives people to the Son. The Son receives every single one of them and He doesn't lose any of them. The whole group that's given to

Him is the whole group that He is going to raise up in the end. It's absolutely secure. Because Jesus is the Son of God, because he was obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross, he has the authority to give eternal life. And He gives it to everybody that the Father gives to Him.

So if He gives it, you have it. And it's secure. Because everyone He gives it to He's going to raise up at the end. It is absolutely secure because He has the authority to give eternal life. So your eternal life is secure because of Christ's glory on the cross and because of Christ's authority through the cross.

There is a third reason which brings us to verse four. And that is Christ's accomplishment at the cross. Christ's accomplishment at the cross. "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do." He says 'I glorified You.' He speaks as if it is an already completed task. He glorified the Father which means He magnified the Father's attributes. He put them on display. He magnified the Father's reputation. Everything Christ did on earth was to the glory of God and He was obedient in every single way. And there are a number of times He makes that kind of a statement. For example in chapter four verse 34, "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.'" Jesus said this is what it's all about for Me, is to do the will of the one who sent me and to accomplish all the work He has given me to do. Chapter five verse 30 he says, "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." Verse 36 He says, "But the testimony I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish- the very works that I do testify about me that the Father has sent Me." He says I came to accomplish a work and I am accomplishing it. Chapter 17 He's saying I've accomplished it. Chapter six in verse 38, again, we just read this, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." He came to do the will of the Father and to accomplish that will to complete the task for which He was sent. And that's what He did.

He accomplished the work given to Him by the Father. It's exactly what He says here. I glorified you on the earth having accomplished the work which You've given Me to do. In fact, this is exactly what Jesus said as He gave up His life on the cross. It's recorded in chapter 19 verse 30 where Jesus said, "It is finished!" It is finished. "And he bowed His head and gave up His spirit." It is finished.

We can't stress enough the importance of that statement. The significance of the fact that the work is finished. It is finished. It is completed. It is accomplished. It is perfected. It is fulfilled. Jesus couldn't have said it any stronger. And as we've said before, it's important to remember He said it is finished. He did not say to be continued. This was a once for all completed accomplished perfect work. Not like Old Testament sacrifices that needed to be made repeatedly. Not like the Roman Catholic mass that re-crucifies Christ. He said "It is finished." There is a finality to the work of Christ. But the writer of Hebrews really beat this drum. Let me just read to you a few passages from the book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter nine starting in verse 11 through 14. It says, "But when Christ appeared a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." He did it once for all and in that once for all act He obtained eternal redemption. Going on it says, "For if the blood of goats of bulls

and the actions of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" That's how powerful, how complete, how perfect His sacrifice was. He finished the work. Chapter nine verse 26, middle of the verse says, "But now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." Once. At the consummation of the ages. At the predetermined hour. He came and through that one perfect sacrifice He accomplished the work of eternal life. Chapter 10 of Hebrews goes on. Verse 10, "By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

What He did was perfect. What He did accomplished everything that was needed. It was done once for all. Verse 14 of chapter 10 says, "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." One offering perfected for all time. It's an accomplished work. It's a secure reality. Because He did it once for all and secured eternal life through it. He said "It is finished." Not "to be continued." Nor did He say "I've done my part, now you do yours." He didn't say, "you know I got the ball rolling here, now you need to pick it up and run with it all the way to the end. And if you stop running anywhere along the way you don't make it all the way to the end, sorry. Because I did my part, you got to do your part." He didn't say that. This might be another time for you Ameners to speak up. Some of you seem to like to do that. I'm just trying to coach you here. He didn't say "I've done my part, you do your part." There are a lot of people who think that is the way it is. No doubt there are people here today who think in reality, you might not say it, but in reality this is exactly what you think. Exactly what you think. You think, I know He did His part and it's perfect, but I have to be sure I do my part or I am going to miss out. This might be exactly what you're thinking.

There are a lot of people who know and believe Jesus died and rose again. Catholics believe that, Mormons believe that. A lot of people believe that, but they also believe that they must put in their own effort. They've got to do their part to make this thing really work. They have to go to every church meeting. They have to volunteer for all kinds of ministry. They have to go over here and do this, and go over there and do that. They have to make sure they say certain things and don't say other things. They've got to make sure they don't watch certain things, because they picked up that ball and they're running with it and man if they watch the wrong thing they drop the ball. And they are not doing these things out of grateful, humble love for the Savior. They see it as their way of securing their salvation. He did His part, I have to do my part, to really secure and nail down this deal here.

And often times, people who adopt this kind of thinking do it in a kind of self-righteous way. They are kind of self-justifying their own behavior. And it's reflected in the fact that they look down on everybody who isn't doing what they're doing, or is doing what they're not doing. There is a group of people that Jesus had to deal with a lot that were just like that. They're called Pharisees who were in to justifying themselves. You know there are people though in churches who do all of this activity just out of fear thinking, this is what I got to do. Many people in churches who live in fear and doubt and uncertainty. Many Christians live with a sense of guilt that they are not doing enough. Well the truth is you can never

do enough. And the good news is you don't have to secure your salvation. It isn't dependent upon what you do. It is dependent on what Christ did and He accomplished, He finished, He perfected the work.

So, Pastor Blakey, are you saying that it doesn't really matter if we attend church services? Or if we volunteer to serve in any way? Well, it doesn't if you think that by doing those things you're in some way contributing to or securing your salvation. All the good works in the world can't do that. You can volunteer for every ministry you want to. That does nothing to secure your salvation. But I will say this: If you really get a grasp on what Christ accomplished, accomplished for you at the cross, if you really get a grip on the debt that He paid, the size of that debt and the finality of the payment, if you really get a grip on the full realization of this security that you have because of the finished work of Christ, if you really get a grip on what this is all about, your life will absolutely be transformed. You will see sin for what it is and you'll put it away. You'll not want to play around with it anymore. And you'll put aside all the silly, trivial things that can consume so many of our lives. And you'll live your life in a joyful love for your wonderful Savior who accomplished and secured the work of eternal life for you.

You'll stop hiding behind all the excuses you give for why you don't live more for the Lord, and you'll just start living flat out for him. I was talking with somebody and we were talking about the rich young ruler who came to Jesus. And Jesus said, here's the deal, you have to give up everything and follow me. He didn't want to do that because he had a lot of stuff. Didn't want to give it up. So he walked away. And then Jesus said to the disciples, you know it's really hard for a rich man to get in to the kingdom of God for exactly this reason. Because they don't want to give stuff up to follow Christ. Peter couldn't help himself. Peter spoke up and said, Lord, we've given up everything. How about us? What are we going to get? We gave it all up. And Jesus said, well, people who give up everything here, they get a whole lot more back from Him. And a lot of people, a lot of you men use the excuse of your family for why you don't live all out for the Lord. Remember who said those words. Peter. Peter said, Lord we've given up everything. We've abandoned everything to follow you. Peter was married. Right? Peter was married. Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. Now, if you have a mother-in-law that means you got a wife. Peter had a wife and Paul, in First Corinthians, mentioned how Peter and others had a wife that were with them in their ministry. So when Peter said he gave up everything what does that mean, because he had a wife. Well, you know what, Peter's wife gave up everything too and followed Christ. In fact, we know that Peter was crucified in Rome. He made the ultimate sacrifice of his life. He gave up his life in serving Christ. Because of that he was crucified. He was crucified upside down. You remember. We're all familiar with that story. Because he refused to be crucified like his Lord. What a lot of people don't know about this story, but maybe you do because I've told it before, is before they crucified Peter they made him watch as they crucified his wife. She gave up everything and followed the Lord too.

Men, stop hiding behind your family. Maybe if you gave yourself completely to the Lord your family would too. Maybe they would follow you. But even if they don't, isn't Christ worth giving up everything to follow? The one who accomplished the work, who perfected your eternal life and who secures it to you? If you really get a grip on what He did, the debt He paid, and how it is totally paid, and your eternal life is absolutely secure in Him, that will revolutionize your life. It is secured by Christ's accomplishment at the cross.

And there's a fourth way that we see it secured. And that is because of Christ's exultation beyond the cross. It's secured because of Christ's exultation beyond the cross. Verse five, "Now Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." Well that is an absolutely amazing statement. Glorify Me together with Yourself. Only deity can say those words. You and I, we can't model this part of the prayer. Only deity can say this. Christ refers to the glory He had with the Father before the world was. Now that is the kind of glory that was referred to back in the very first two verses of this gospel. Chapter one verses one and two it says, "In the beginning was the Word [that's a reference to Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." So He was in the beginning. He was with God, face to face with God, but distinct from God. This is the eternal Son. In the beginning, meaning before anything that was created existed, the Son and the Father stood face to face in glory. That speaks of Christ's preexistence. Meaning He existed before anything was created. It speaks of His eternity by definition. If you're around before anything else came in to existence, you're eternal. And it speaks of the deity of Christ. He wasn't just a man dying for men on the cross. He was God in the flesh dying for men on the cross. Jesus Christ is eternal. Jesus Christ is deity. Your salvation, your eternal life was secured by Him who always was. Meditate on that this afternoon. Christ always was. Never had a beginning.

Now when Christ came in to the world He temporarily set aside His glory. His glory was veiled by His humanity. If you were to see Him, and people who did see Him didn't think He was anything special. He looked like anybody else. His glory wasn't manifest in that way. But John, the writer of this Gospel, along with his brother James and Peter, they got to witness a brief pulling back of the veil to see Christ in all of His glory. It's recorded in Mark chapter nine for one place. It says, "Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them." So they got a brief glimpse of the blazing glory of Jesus Christ. He was transfigured before them. And John speaks as a witness of that glory of Christ. And He says that in John chapter one verse 14. He says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

So John saw that glory, that glory that was mostly veiled during the time of Christ's time here on earth. But now as Christ anticipates the cross, He looks beyond the cross to the glory that He's going to enjoy once again with the Father. He sees Himself being restored to His pre-incarnate glory. And, knowing that, anticipating that, looking forward to that, helped Him in enduring the indescribable darkness of the cross. As it says in Hebrews 12:2, "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him, [the joy of being restored to the glory He had with the Father before the world was, being back in that place because of the joy set before Him, endured the cross] despising the shame, and [here it is] has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Because He knew where He was going and what it was going to be like that helped Him endure the darkness of the cross. Jesus knew what was on the other side of that cross. It was a return to full glory. And we know that this is exactly what happened as it says here He is at the right hand of the throne of God exulted in all of His glory. Because of the sacrifice that He made, the perfect sacrifice, because He accomplished the work, He was restored to glory. In Philippians two verses nine through 11 it says, "For this reason also, God highly

exulted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." So, Christ died, was resurrected, has a glorified body and ascends back in to heaven, assumes His position at the right hand of the throne of God, and joined the glory that He had with the Father from all eternity. And John who saw a glimpse of His glory here on earth would receive a later revelation of Christ in His full glory. Let's turn there. Revelation chapter one. We can't look at this often enough. Revelation chapter one. If you saw Jesus today He wouldn't look like a Jewish carpenter. Nothing fancy, nothing special about Him. If you could see Jesus today this is what you would see. Revelation chapter one starting in verse 12. It says, "Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest a golden sash [priestly garments]. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow [perfectly holy]; and His eyes were like [laser beams] a flame of fire [penetrating, piercing eyes]. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace [speaking of His justice], and His voice was like the sound of many waters [powerful]. In His right hand he held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword [His word is powerful, it's penetrating]; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength." Here is the full revelation of Him in His glory. Shining like the sun. What would you do if He walked in here today like that? Well here is what John did. Verse 17, "When I saw Him, I ran up and jumped in his lap." Yours doesn't say that? "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man." That's how you would react if you saw Him in all of His glory. Fortunately He is glorious and He's gracious, because look what He does to John. "He placed his right hand on me saying [this is an incredible understatement] 'do not be afraid.'" Well what else would you expect? "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." There He is in His full glory. Gracious. Our eternal life is secured because of Christ's glory beyond the cross. This is the One who secures our eternal life. You think He can do it? Our eternal life is totally secure in Christ because of Christ's glory on the cross, because of the authority He has by the cross, by His accomplishment at the cross, and because of Christ's exultation beyond the cross. Let me just say one more word about Christ's work beyond the cross.

Going back to John chapter 17. If we were to read and study the whole 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of John we would see that in verses one to five Christ basically prays for Himself. There's the request in verse five that He has for Himself, glorify Me together with Yourself. So the first five verses He's basically praying for Himself with that request being made in verse five. Then in verses six through 19 He prayed for those 11 disciples who were with Him at the time. Judas had already made his exit. But then in verses 20 through 26 He prays for somebody else, not for Himself, not for those 11 that are there, He prays for somebody else. Let me read those closing verses. Starting in verse 20 He says, "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which you have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given

Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which you have given Me, for you loved Me before the foundation of the world. Oh righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known you; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved me may be in them, and I in them.” Who is he praying for there? He’s praying for a whole lot of people including us. Verse 20, also, “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, [these 11 disciples that were standing right there with them] but for those also who believe in me through their word.” That would be you and me. He’s praying there for us. And there’s a number of amazing things here that we could point out. But just notice at the end of verse 23, “So that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them.” That’s again speaking of all those who will believe through the word of the disciples, that includes us, “that You loved them even as You have loved Me.” Do you have any doubts about the Father’s love for the Son? Well, here the Son says that the Father loves us just like He loves Him. So how secure is your salvation? Here you see Jesus praying for you and me, and you know what He’s doing right now today at the right hand of the Father in all of His glory? Do you know what He’s doing right now for us? Do you know what He’s doing while He’s sitting there? He’s not sitting there drinking iced tea kicking back relaxing saying ‘hey, the work was done. I accomplished it, it’s finished, time to kick back man.’ Is that what He’s doing? No. You know what’s He’s doing? He’s still praying for you and me. That’s what we’re told in the book of Hebrews chapter seven. And let’s just close by turning there. Hebrews chapter seven verses 23 through 27. Verse 23 says, “The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore, He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.” He offered up Himself once for all, finished, accomplished, perfected, the work. And He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him. Because He’s always making intercession for them. What do you think? Are His intercessions heard? Are His intercessions answered? Jesus is interceding on your behalf. Your eternal life is totally secure. That’s what He says. Verse 25, He’s able to save forever. That’s what He does.

Now notice there though in verse 25 He saves forever those who draw near to God through Him. That’s the description of those who have eternal life. They draw near to God through Jesus Christ. Is that you? Doesn’t do us any good to say and to make clear that eternal life is secure if you don’t even have it. Is that you? Do you draw near to God through Jesus Christ? Because you have absolutely no life if you reject Christ. You have absolutely no life if you ignore Christ. You have no life if you’re trusting in yourself for anything or anyone else other than Christ. You have no life even if you’re trusting in Christ plus something else to secure your eternal life. You don’t have any life in those situations. But if you are trusting in Christ, Christ alone, then you have eternal life and that eternal life is secure.

And truly the realization and meditation upon this truth can do more good for your soul than anything else. You know, I don’t know, I’ve been hearing some talk about a health plan. Is there something going on about a health plan, health coverage, health insurance? This is the best health plan. Best thing for

your mind, best thing for your heart, best thing for your soul, is to draw near to God through Jesus Christ and know that your eternal life is secure. That even if you die you will live. There is no better insurance than that. Vote for that. That's what I'm voting for. Jesus Christ gives life. That must mean it's time to end. Jesus Christ has life. He gives life. And that life that He gives is secure forever. Secured because of His glory at the cross. Secured because of the authority He has by the means of the cross. Secured because of the work that He accomplished at the cross and secured by the glory, and exultation he has beyond the cross. It couldn't be any more secure. So this is your cue. This is the time to say Amen. Let's pray.

Father we thank You that we can look to your word and find the truth. That Jesus Christ speaks the truth. And that truth has a marvelous effect, an impact in our lives. Lord I pray that this truth that we have considered just briefly over these two weeks would nevertheless have a great impact in our own hearts. That we would be drawn to Christ and to the eternal life that only He can give. And that we would be absolutely assured of the security of that life that Christ gives. Not secured because of anything we've done or are doing or will do, but totally secured in every way by who He is and what He has done. Lord may we find our rest in Christ. May we look to Him. May we fully grasp this truth and have our lives transformed because of it. And we'll give you the thanks in our Saviors name. Amen.