

Pastor's Pen

The Essence of Eternal Life

(Excerpt)

June 10, 2012

God's utmost goal and purpose for His people in the quest of this life is scripturally depicted as "immortal" or "eternal life." Depraved humanity's present manifestation is impeded under the limitations of mortality. This encapsulation obstructs the means to transcend physical death, whose proscribed character militates against all possibilities of perpetual existence. Yet from the knowledge of the Gospel of Grace, it is scripturally documented that all whom God made alive in Christ have already been assigned "immortality." These same passages of Scriptures recognize that every person has an eternal soul but this doesn't engender an "alive in Christ" spirit. This conferment of "immortality" or "eternal life" isn't concomitant with ones birthright even though ALL SOULS will continue eternally in some form of existence after the end of this physical life. The question of eternal life therefore, doesn't connote eternal existence per se but rather what form it will take wherein spiritual death will remain a barrier to the eternal fulfillment of "everlasting life."

In distinguishing life from death, the Scriptures convey definitive meanings to the terms "life" and "death." First, there is the physical meaning of life, which is temporary existence in this physical realm. Then there is the spiritual meaning of life, which is eternal existence, i.e., in God's favor or blessedness. This is "the Essence of Eternal Existence," which is deliverance from the state of separation from God to a blissful abode in Him and hence it transcends death in every sense of the word. Physical death is actually the discarding of the human body, which is an event in the voyage of every soul, as even those who are physically alive at His appearance will be exchanged. Thus, the enduring death is culminated in eternal separation from God, which is the spiritual death: the condition of immeasurable distance from God or abyss's existence in the hereafter. Hence the chief issue of one's earthly abode is salvation or deliverance from spiritual death to "eternal life" and "immortality," which are nomenclatures used to describe the posture of this blessed position.

This placement in Christ is present already actualization-wise for God's elect of the Grace Dispensation. Even though such ones manifestly occupy in this physical life, knowledge-wise, they actually abide or live in the Truth of God's Grace that will continue unabated in the hereafter. Solidarity of this is entrenched in the knowledge that such was determinately implemented in God's Decree. Some scriptural translations have misapplied conveyances; depicting persons who "gain" eternal life, as though they have by their doings accomplished the "goal of eternal life." In reality, if spiritual death isn't to be feared as a detriment to ones Eternal Existence, its elimination must be exclusively annexed to God's accomplishment of placing such into Eternal Relations with Him in eternity. The comprehension of this opposes the perception of human performances or consents to the effectuation of such during ones Earthly abode. Some doctrines promote the idea of insertion of physical actions or gestures as God's process of conferring immortality.

In this view, eternal state or status is a derivative of consent, acceptance or rejection of the “offer” of salvation with the consequence of life being totally at the discretion of act (s) or non-act(s). In other words, it is variedly taught that one’s faith **IN** Christ (whether induced by God or the person believing) versus one’s non-belief is the determining factor, as to whether such one is given God’s nature. Spiritual Resurrection is interpreted by them as requiring some functioning of spiritually dead physical bodies in order to dwell forever in the favor of God, yet these physical interpretations are supposedly based on the spiritual concept of life and death. This is quite paradoxical in that only the spiritually alive are qualified to possess immortality and benefits of resurrection. This inconsistency of interpretation cascades into the debate of whether faith precedes regeneration or vice versa, which is totally irrelevant, considering the fact that the state of blessedness in eternal life was determinately actualized before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-5).

In the Gospel of Grace, Romans 6.23 actually reads “for the wages of sin: death but the free gift of God: eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This portrays the elect’s isolation from the unreal status of separation from God to the reality of having been eternally placed in Christ, which is expressive of effusive contrast between “from darkness to light and from mortality to immortality.” Even correctly exegetical teachings of the Kingdom Gospel don’t espouse the designs of this life as a kind of grasping fetter for liberation from the penalty of physical death. The exegetical translation of John 11:25-26 actually reads, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who is believing in me, even if he may die (having died), shall live; and everyone who is living and may believe (having believed) in me shall not die to the age.” It is confirmed in “the Mystery” that all Israel have part in the life to come, as Eternal inheritors of the Earth. Isaiah 60.21 states, “... and your people shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, work of my hands that I may be glorified.”

Therefore, all elect Jews are entitled to an eternal kingdom by virtue of their relationship in God’s heritage and promise, which they have received actualization-wise. Thus, they are saved through manifestation of Christ’s faithfulness and righteous deeds, of which they are the recipients of the Earthly Garden in Eternity, beneath which rivers flow and they will dwell therein forever. God is well pleased with them because He is well pleased with the merit of Jesus Christ. Hence they will dwell in eternal blissfulness as they will be with Him; having realized that which is without beginning and end, beyond the great and unchanging, as ones freed from the jaws of death. “Being in accord with Him” in Eternity truly exemplifies His eternal love for them. The Grace Gospel Ministry believes and teaches that the Essence of Eternal Life engenders manifestation of God’s Eternal Union with **ALL** His elect according to the purpose and pleasure of His good will (Ephesians 1:5, 9).