

Eternal Life

Just imagine...
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Someone has generously given you a gift of a month-long luxury cruise of the Mediterranean. The gift is worth many thousands of dollars. You and your spouse will be sailing on the largest, most luxurious cruise ship in the world—free of charge. The amenities will be without parallel. The gourmet food will be bountiful—and sinfully delicious. On board will be offered an endless list of activities for every conceivable interest. The ports of call will include such fascinating, exotic sights as Alexandria and Cairo in Egypt; Jerusalem and the rest of the Holy Land; Petra; Istanbul; Athens, Greece; Naples and Rome, Italy; the island of Patmos; Corinth; the Isle of Crete; Monaco; Barcelona, Spain; and Morocco. All your expenses have been paid—even gratuities! All you need do is show up dockside and enjoy.

Then, upon boarding the ship, you spend the next four weeks shut in your cabin, eating from the trunk load of meager sack lunches you brought with you.

That is precisely how many in the family of God live out their days—a bare-bones, Spartan existence all the while surrounded by unimaginable luxury and wealth. Our eternal life in Christ—not just heaven, but the life we are living right now—has been bought and paid for by someone else. Anything we would ever want has been supplied for us. All we have to do is enjoy.

And then we sit in our windowless rooms, nibbling on our meager dry crackers and stale cheese.

Too many Christians today settle for the small “part” they have now, putting things on hold until they see “in full.”

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12

But believers are not meant to coast along, settling for a small, static life of grim longing for the Day, when they are wealthy in Christ’s riches—a wealth of hope and joy and Spirit-energized gifts that are not to be squirreled away for later, but to be spent in the here and now.

Every person born of woman is born into eternity. Those not called and those who reject His call will complete their eternity in hell, while those who have been called and who in turn call upon the name of the Lord Jesus will complete their eternity with Him in heaven and on the new earth.

Christians—those who look forward to a “face to face” life with Christ—are to be fully engaged in their eternal life *right now*.

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:10-13

