The Purpose of the Life and Death of Christ Part 3 The Glory of God in Salvation John 17:1-5

John 17:1–5 (NKJV)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Introduction:

In 1962 The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that prayer in the public schools was unconstitutional

The very next year, the same Supreme Court Ruled that public Reading the Bible in public schools was also unconstitutional

Prior to this in the 18th, 19th and early 20th century, schools would open with public prayer and Bible reading. Classes on the Bible were common among the schools.

But in 1962 and 63 everything changed

"One can argue, and some have, that the decision by the Supreme Court – to remove Bible and prayer from our public schools, may be the most spiritually significant event in our nation's history over the course of the last 55 years,"

"a comparison between the top five complaints of teachers from 1940-1962 -- talking, chewing gum, making noise, running in the halls and getting out of turn in line – to rape, robbery, assault, burglary and arson from 1963 to present."

Education Expert: Removing Bible, Prayer from Public Schools Has Caused Decline

By Penny Starr I August 15, 2014 I 10:02am EDT

This article was written in 2014

Little did the author know what was just around the corner

On **June 26, 2015**, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all state bans on same-sex marriage, legalized it in all fifty states, and required states to honor outof-state same-sex marriage licenses President Barack Obama said the ruling was a "victory for America". https://www.bbc.com/news/world-uscanada-33290341

Lets not forget the Elephant in the room, that even many churches won't address....

In 1973, the historic Supreme Court decision known as Roe v. Wade that made it legal to kill babies in the Womb. and since that decision

62,183,104 babies have been killed as of last night approx 2360 per day.

That is nearly how many died in one day in the twin towers in New York on 9/11 2606 died.

Abortion policy is just one of several areas in which California senator Kamala Harris, Joe Biden's running mate, has sworn to abuse executive power to assert her preferences if Congress won't legislate as she'd like.

She is without question the most radically proabortion candidate to run for president or vice president in the history of our country.

As a senator, Harris has cosponsored the most aggressively pro-abortion piece of federal legislation ever introduced, the Women's Health Protection Act, which would override state restrictions on abortions in the last three months of pregnancy, well after fetal viability.

Harris also voted last year against the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would punish doctors who fail to provide medical care to a child born alive after an attempted abortion. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/08/20/health-202-kamala-harris-is-invigorating-abortion-rights-activists/

The legislation would also make it impossible for states to enact or enforce informed-consent laws and waiting-period requirements,

Harris has pushed to repeal the Hyde Amendment, which blocks federal Medicaid funding for abortion services unless the person's continued pregnancy will put their life in danger or the baby is the product of rape or incest.

https://www.marieclaire.com/politics/a33623181/kamala-harris-stance-on-abortion/ https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/kamala-harriss-abortion-absolutism/

We have reach a point now where good is evil and evil is good. Paganism and perversion are seen as normal and Christianity is seen as abnormal and an invasion into my privacy. Our Country has ruled God unconstitutional and while some governors say our churches non essential.

Foreign Countries are now sending missionaries to America to reach the lost. While American churches are being seduced by Social Justice and becoming playgrounds for worldliness.

Our country is a culture where Atheism growing, theistic pluralism is celebrated, while belief in One God and Jesus Christ is seen as intolerant, bigoted and narrow minded. There were two cultures the apostles of the N.T. interacted with. One was the Jewish Culture and other was the Greco-Roman culture. One had one God, while the other had a pantheon of gods. One was moralistic while the other was paganistic.

The Jewish Culture, believed in one God, the creator of Heaven and earth. They believed the Old Testament record regarding creation and lived under the O.T. moral law.

They knew what sin was and understood its offense to a Holy God.

The Roman Greek Culture had no such understanding. With some exceptions, they had no idea of the Hebrew God, and as far as they were concerned, he was just another god to be added to there list.

When Peter preached in Acts 2 to the Jewish audience, there was context and assumptions that could be made. They already believed in God, they already accepted the authority of the O.T.

They already understood what sin was

They already knew there needed to be a sacrifice for sin.

They had the context of the prophecies of the O.T that could be explained to be the Christ.

So when Peter preached, 3000 souls were saved.

However

When Paul goes to Mars Hill in Athens Greece. He is immediately confronted with polytheism, paganism and philosophy.

Acts 17:16–33 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. ¹⁷ Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?"

Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? ²⁰ For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." ²¹ For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

²² Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; ²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' ²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. ³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

³² And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this *matter*." ³³ So Paul departed from among them.

70 years ago, we were a culture like the Jewish culture. We had more who understood and where familiar with the Bible and its Claims. God and Jesus Christ, where not just a curse word. Bibles were read in the schools. Children were familiar with the stories about Jesus Christ. There was a Judea-Christian foundation that had been laid in this country that was still understood. July 30, 1956

A law passed in a Joint Resolution by the **84th** Congress (P.L 84–140) and approved by President Dwight Eisenhower on **July 30, 1956**, requires that "In God We Trust" appear on American currency.

Now Im am not saying that everything was orthodox, but there was a theistic fabric that ran thru the culture.

That is not that way it is now.

We are no longer there. We have cross a line a long time back and now we are moving at break neck speed into full blown, atheistic, immoral God hating paganism.

Nothing is beyond discussion and nothing is beyond acceptance. It is not only promoted but it is celebrated.

In Texas

Pro Aborition groups are paying to have large billboards display, "Abortion is a blessing"

"My decision to have an abortion was guided by my faith and my love for my family"

https://www.lifenews.com/2020/08/13/pro-abortion-billboards-claim-killing-unborn-babies-in-abortions-is-a-blessing/

At the DNC

At least two caucus meetings at this week's Democratic National Convention began with recitations of the Pledge of Allegiance that omitted the phrase "under God."

Two videos posted online — one of the person kicking off a Muslim meeting, and the other starting an LGBT meeting — showed the Pledge being recited incompletely.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the republic for which it stands. One nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," delegate A.J. Durrani said at the start of the DNC's "Muslim Delegates and Allies Assembly."

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/aug/19/ dnc-delegates-drop-under-god-pledge-allegiance/

A <u>Tennessee</u> school district is under fire for asking parents to sign a form agreeing not to eavesdrop on kids' virtual <u>classes</u> over concerns they could overhear confidential information https://www.foxnews.com/us/tennessee-parentswaiver-eavesdropping-online-lessons

There are hundreds of examples I could give you of the departure from Judeo-Christian values that this Country once had.

You cannot assume that your neighbor or your coworkers believe anything like you do or if they believe in a God at all.

Jesus Christ is a foreign word to many children. And sadly I personally know children and teenagers who do not have a clue what the Bible says.

What Jesus prays here in this prayer would have been understood 60 years ago. But now it is foreign if ever discussed at all.

The reason Im moving so slow thru this is because we are at a different time, when even in the church, the Biblical illiteracy is off the charts. I cannot assume even in this church that you know this.

Secondly I'm moving slowly because these are simple words that cover the vast reaches of God's purposes in salvation and that in many ways are hard to understand but a pleasure the study.

We get a glimpse into the very mind of God and communion between the Father and the Son unlike

any place else in Scripture. All of Scripture is Sacred, but this is the Diamond laid on the black velvet of God's Word.

Lesson:

The Glory of God in Foreordination The Glory of God in Predestination The Glory of God in Salvation The Glory of God in Completion The Gory of God in Concentration

I. The Glory of God in Foreordination.

1. Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may

glorify You,

II. The Glory of God in Predestination

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

The Sovereign Person of the Son
 The Sovereign Purpose of the Son
 The Sovereign Plan of the Son

<u>1. The Sovereign Person of the Son</u>

2<u>as</u> You have given Him authority over all flesh καθως εδωκας αυτω εξουσιαν πασης σαρκος

2. The Sovereign Purpose of the Son

² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, <u>that He</u> should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

<u>ινα</u> παν ο δεδωκας αυτω δωση αυτοις ζωην αιωνιον

1. It is Sovereignly Given that He should give

2. . It is a Given He should give eternal life

3. It is Eternal that He should give eternal life

4. It is Elective

John 6:37

37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

John 6:32-40 (NKJV)

³² Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

But if some can see Jesus and his miraculous signs, and yet still not come to faith, does that not suggest his mission is in some measure a failure? The question returns in ch. 12, where it is treated at some length. Already the answer is provided here: however many people do not believe, God's saving purposes cannot be thought to be frustrated. Jesus' confidence does not rest in the potential for positive response amongst well-meaning people. Far from it: his confidence is in his Father to bring to pass the Father's redemptive purposes: *All that the Father gives me will come to me*. Jesus' confidence in the success of his mission is frankly predestinarian Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 290). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

All that (a singular neuter is used to refer to the elect collectively) the Father gives to Jesus, as his gift to his Son, will surely come to him; and whoever in fact comes (by virtue of being given by the Father to the Son), Jesus undertakes to keep in, to preserve. The second part of the verse moves from the collective whole to the individual, and from the actual coming (consequent on being part of the gift) to preservation. Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 290). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

John 6:44–45 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, *'And they shall all be taught by God.'* Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

John 6:60–61 (NKJV)

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this,* said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?

John 6:64–66 (NKJV)

⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe."
For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.
⁶⁵ And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

Και ελεγεν Δια τουτο ειρηκα υμιν οτι ουδεις δυναται ελθειν προς με εαν μη η δεδομενον αυτω εκ του πατρος μου This profound reality teaches us that all who are saved are a love gift from the Father to the Son. The whole history of redemption is the gathering of this redeemed body—or the calling of a bride for the Son as a love gift from the Father. The Son views every soul given by the Father to Him as an expression of the Father's irresistible love, so that all whom He gives **will come** to Christ.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). John 1–11 (p. 246). Chicago: Moody Press.

MacArthur, J. F.

That God is absolutely sovereign in salvation is foundational to the Christian faith. Those errant theological systems (i.e., Pelagianism, semi-Pelagianism, and Arminianism) that make salvation dependent on man's will in effect dethrone God, and are contrary to the clear statements of Scripture: MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). *John 1–11* (p. 247). Chicago: Moody Press.

Matthew 22:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ "For many are called, but few are chosen."

Mark 13:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Ephesians 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

All the verbs

Predestined, Called, Justified, and Glorified

Are all <u>Aorist</u> Verbs. God sees this as completed action. It is Sure as DONE

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

2 Timothy 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Titus 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

James 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

1 Peter 1:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who

once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

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Acts 13:46–48 (NKJV)
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⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us:

'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

The Glory of God in Foreordination
 The Glory of God in Predestination
 The Glory of God in Salvation

The desire of the Father to Save and Glorify himself thru the salvation of sinners

2 You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

αυτη δε εστιν η αιωνιος ζωη ινα γινωσκωσιν σε τον μονον αληθινον Θεον και ον απεστειλας Ιησουν Χριστον

> ³ And this is eternal life αυτη δε εστιν η αιωνιος ζωη

"Eternal [everlasting] life" is an important theme in John's Gospel; it is mentioned at least seventeen times. Eternal life is God's free gift to those who believe on His Son Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 368). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

John 3:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 6:47 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

John 10:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

When we hear the words "eternal life" most of the time we think of the longevity of life. That we will live

forever and never die and that we will live in heaven and as many have erroneously taught, "we will have our mansion just over the hilltop".

But that is not how Jesus defines it.

It is not a place or a location. Its not even heaven as we think of it.

It not a condition of no pain, or sorrow or even primarily no death.

Its not peace and joy and happiness untold.

These may be ways to describe the benefits of eternal life, but they are not eternal life

These may be the results of having eternal life but they are not eternal life.

Jesus specifically defines Eternal Life as a relationship not a condition

He says it is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ.

This is different than what we normally think of when we think of Eternal life.

But before we look at that statement

Consider with me the term

"Eternal Life"

We understand Eternal,

aiónios: agelong, eternal

Original Word: αἰώνιος, ία, ιον Part of Speech: Adjective Transliteration: aiónios Phonetic Spelling: (ahee-o'-nee-os) Definition: agelong, eternal Usage: age-long, and therefore: practically eternal, unending; partaking of the character of that which lasts for an age, as contrasted with that which is brief and fleeting.

Cognate: 166 aiốnios (an adjective, derived from 165 /aiốn ("an age, having a particular character and quality") –

aión: a space of time, an age

Original Word: αἰών, ῶνος, ὁ Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine Transliteration: aión Phonetic Spelling: (ahee-ohn') Definition: a space of time, an age Usage: an age, a cycle (of time), especially of the present age as contrasted with the future age, and of one of a series of ages stretching to infinity. 165 aiốn (see also the cognate adjective, 166 / aiốnios, "age-long") – properly, an age (era, "timespan"), characterized by a specific quality (type of existence).

This is not were the confusion comes from or the misrepresentations of what eternal life is. We know that eternal describes the longevity of this life and that it will last for ever...the confusion comes with the term "life".

What is "life"?

The way we often hear it defined is in relation to things or quality, whether it be, absent of death, or heaven or happiness.

But what Jesus is telling us here is that this is something much more meaningful, much deeper that chronological time, or a feeling or a place.

To understand this we have to ask a Question

What is life?

Have you ever wondered what life is or what being alive is.

Some think of is in terms of Biological life. As long as there is a heart beat, then one is alive. Now they say as long as there is brain activity, even it the heart can't beat and as stopped one is alive.

But is that all that life is?

The Beating of the heart, the continuation of brain activity?

clinical death is the medical term for cessation of blood circulation and breathing, the two criteria necessary to sustain the lives of human beings and of many other organisms.^[1] It occurs when the heart stops beating in a regular rhythm, a condition called cardiac arrest. The term is also sometimes used in resuscitation research.

Stopped blood circulation has historically proven irreversible in most cases. Prior to the invention of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), defibrillation, epinephrine injection, and other treatments in the 20th century, the absence of blood circulation (and vital functions related to blood circulation) was historically considered the official definition of death. With the advent of these strategies, cardiac arrest came to be called *clinical death* rather than simply *death*, to reflect the possibility of post-arrest resuscitation.

At the onset of clinical death, consciousness is lost within several seconds. (Early studies have indicated) Measurable brain activity stops within 20 to 40 seconds

But now

"scientists have observed that the human brain, like many other body parts, does not stop working immediately after the heart stops beating and may still function for up to five minutes afterward, according to their study published in 2018 in the Annals of Neurology titled "Terminal spreading depolarization and electrical silence in death of human cerebral cortex."

How the Brain Can Remain Active Even When the Heart Stops Neuroscientists discover the brain can still function after circulatory arrest. Posted Oct 22, 2018

Death can be described as asynchronous—not all of the parts of the human body die at the same time after the heart stops functioning. For example, after the human brain ceases to function, with the assistance of a ventilator (respirator) for blood flow and oxygenation, many body organs, such as the heart, lungs, cornea, liver, pancreas, small bowel, skin, tendons, kidney and bone, may be kept viable long enough for the purposes of donation to save the life of another person [1]. A human limb can survive if kept cool immediately after amputation. An arm can be reattached successfully within three to four hours, and a finger up to eight hours after severance from the human body

Following cardiac arrest, irreversible human brain damage occurs within an estimated 10 minutes due to the lack of oxygen [4]. Within 20-40 seconds of oxygen deprivation, the brain becomes electrically inactive, and interneuronal activity stops. In a healthy, oxygenated human brain, ion gradients, the uneven distribution of ions between the inside and outside of nerve cells, are maintained. Within minutes, the brain's ion gradient starts to deteriorate, and depolarization spreads as a "massive wave of electrochemical energy release in the form of heat," called a "brain tsunami."

As the energy loss is distributed through the cortex to other areas of the brain, pathophysiological cascades occur which "gradually poison the nerve cells." According to the research study, "this wave remains reversible up to a certain point in time: nerve cells will recover fully if circulation is restored before this point is reached."

How the Brain Can Remain Active Even When the Heart Stops Neuroscientists discover the brain can still function after circulatory arrest. Posted Oct 22, 2018 But the medical field and medical technology cannot help us in understanding what **life is.**

"Although biology is the study of life, even biologists don't agree on what 'life' actually is. While scientists have proposed hundreds of ways to define it, none have been widely accepted. And for the general public, a dictionary won't help because definitions will use terms like organisms or animals and plants -- synonyms or examples of life -- which sends you round in circles.

In the early 1990s, an advisory panel to NASA's astrobiology program, which included biochemist Gerald Joyce, came up with a working definition: *Life is a self-sustaining chemical system capable of Darwinian evolution*."

A Biologist Explains: What Is Life? JV ChamaryContributor Science

So, basically from the world of scientist the best we can come up with is that life is "a bunch of chemical reactions that can change"

That is about as hopeless and meaningless as it can get.

So when someone dies, we basically say.

"Wow, another group of chemical reactions have stopped."

The point I want to make is that life is beyond the physical, it is beyond the chemical or cellular level. It finds its origin in the supernatural.

We can understand what keeps a body alive and we can know when life leaves the body

But Life is unique to God. He is life

Life's source and creator is God. The one who identifies Himself as "Life"

John 14:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and <u>the life</u>. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 5:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

John 11:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

Colossians 3:4 (NKJV)

⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 John 1:1–2 (NKJV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

1 John 5:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. Deuteronomy 30:11–20 (NKJV)

¹¹ "For this commandment which I command you today *is* not *too* mysterious for you, nor *is* it far off.

¹² It *is* not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³ Nor *is* it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴ But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which

the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

He gives Life

John 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them,* even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

John 6:33 (NKJV)

³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Deuteronomy 32:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ 'Now see that I, *even* I, *am* He,
And *there is* no God besides Me;
I kill and I make alive;
I wound and I heal;
Nor *is there any* who can deliver from My hand.

1 Samuel 2:6 (NKJV)

⁶ "The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Colossians 1:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Life for us begins at conception. At that moment God creates a unique life, that has never existed before and there will never be one exactly like it again.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (NKJV)

- ⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the <u>spirit will return to God who gave it.</u>
- 2 Corinthians 5:1–2 (NKJV)

5 For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in

this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

At that moment a Soul is created by God that will live forever.

We are different from animals.

animals are alive but they do not have eternal souls.

Ecclesiastes 3:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?

Also death is not the end of life for us.

Death is a separation of the spirit from the Body. Death is cessation only of the physical Body, not the soul.

You never cease to be alive.

Every human will be alive forever.

Whether you are saved or lost. Whether you go to heaven or hell.... you will always be alive.

Luke 16:22–23 (NKJV)

²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

This is a sobering thought. Every single person who was ever conceived in the womb is alive... right now.

After conception there has never been a time they haven't been alive.

From the most evil man slaughtering maniac to he the most devoted missionary who died at the hands of savage headhunters. They are all alive.

From Nebuchadnezzar to Nero

From the Hittites to Hitler

From Adam and Eve to Hymenaeus and Alexander

They're all alive.

whether its you grandmother, grandfather, Mother or Father, Husband or wife or one of your children that have died.

They are ALL alive.

The difference is based on who you know.

What kind of life you have or they have is based on a relationship God Is it alive in Heaven with God, or is it alive in Hell separated from the love of God?

So biblically speaking, we can define life

The everlasting Being and existence that is created and sustained by God, for His eternal purposes that will glorify the grace, mercy and love of God in perfect relationship with Him in Heaven or glorify his holiness, justice and wrath, hostile relationship with Him in hell.

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

αυτη δε εστιν η αιωνιος ζωη ινα γινωσκωσιν σε τον μονον αληθινον Θεον και ον απεστειλας Ιησουν Χριστον

To be clear, it needs to be pointed out the the lost are never said <u>to have eternal life.</u> Rather they are said to have

1. Eternal Contempt.

Daniel 12:2 (NKJV)

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,

Some to everlasting life,

Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

deraon: aversion, abhorrence

Original Word: דְּרָאוֹן Part of Speech: Noun Masculine Transliteration: deraon Phonetic Spelling: (der-aw-one') Definition: aversion, abhorrence contempt n. — a lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike.

2. Eternal Destruction

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting <u>destruction</u> from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

olethros: destruction, death

Original Word: ὅλεθρος, ου, ὁ Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine Transliteration: olethros Phonetic Spelling: (ol'-eth-ros) Definition: destruction, death Usage: ruin, doom, destruction, death. 3639 ólethros (from ollymi/"destroy") – properly, ruination with its full, destructive results (LS). 3639 / ólethros ("ruination") however does not imply "extinction" (annihilation). Rather it emphasizes the consequent loss that goes with the complete "undoing."

ruin (worthlessness) n. — an event or act that results in destruction; especially the loss of all that gives worth to existence.

3. Eternal punishment

Matthew 25:46 (NKJV) ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting **punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life."

Original Word: κόλασις, εως, ἡ **Part of Speech:** Noun, Feminine **Transliteration:** kolasis

Phonetic Spelling: (kol'-as-is)

Definition: correction

Usage: chastisement, punishment, torment, perhaps with the idea of deprivation. Cognate: 2851 kólasis (from kolaphos, "a buffeting, a blow") – properly, punishment that "fits" (matches) the one punished (R. Trench); torment from living in the dread of upcoming judgment from shirking one's duty (cf. WS at 1 Jn 4:18).

<u>From</u>

kolázō – properly, to dwarf, mutilate (curtail); used of punishing slaves to incapacitate them; hence, to punish (cause agony) to curtail ("dock/check," Abbott-Smith), i.e. in a way that restrains (impedes, restricts).

4. Everlasting Fire

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)

⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand,'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting**fire** prepared for the devil and his angels:

Mark 9:43-44 (NKJV)

⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴ where

'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'

pur: fire

Original Word: πῦρ, πυρός, τό **Part of Speech:** Noun, Neuter **Transliteration:** pur **Phonetic Spelling:** (poor) **Definition:** fire **Usage:** fire; the heat of the sun, lightning; fig: strife, trials; the eternal fire. 4442 pýr – fire. In Scripture, fire is often used figuratively – like with the "fire of God" which

transforms all it touches into light and likeness with itself

So eternal life belongs exclusively to Christians, to those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

This eternal life is defined as

<u>1. Rightly Knowing God</u> <u>2. Knowing the Right God</u>

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

αυτη δε εστιν η αιωνιος ζωη ινα γινωσκωσιν σε τον μονον αληθινον Θεον και ον απεστειλας Ιησουν Χριστον

1. Rightly Knowing God

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, αυτη δε εστιν η αιωνιος ζωη ινα γινωσκωσιν σε

Life eternal. With the article: *the* life eternal. Defining the words in the previous verse. *The life eternal* (of which I spoke) *is this*.

Vincent, M. R. (1887). Word studies in the New Testament (Vol. 2, p. 263). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

This eternal life starts as conversion

John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed (Perf) from death into life.

1 John 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have (Pres) eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

This eternal life is characterized as KNOWING God

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, αυτη δε εστιν η αιωνιος ζωη ινα γινωσκωσιν σε

γινωσκωσιν Pres. Active Subjective may continue to know God.

ginóskó: to come to know, recognize, perceive

Original Word: γινώσκω Part of Speech: Verb Transliteration: ginóskó Phonetic Spelling: (ghin-oce'-ko) Definition: to come to know, recognize, perceive Usage: I am taking in knowledge, come to know, learn; aor: I ascertained, realized. 1097 ginóskō – properly, to know, especially through personal experience (first-hand acquaintance). 1097 /ginóskō ("experientially know") is used for example in Lk 1:34, "And Mary [a virgin] said to the angel, 'How will this be since I do not know (1097 /ginóskō = sexual intimacy) a man?"

This knowledge is more than academic. It is not knowing facts about God. It is knowing God.

The Church and the world and Hell are filled with people who know about God.

Some know a lot about God and can quote scripture, but they don't know God

Some come to church on a regular basis but do not know God.

Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

John 10:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep,* and am known by My own.

Matthew 25:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

1 John 4:6 (NKJV)

⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 John 5:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

In the Jewish Scriptures knowing God was at the heart of the covenant relationship (cf., e.g., Jer. 24:7; 31:33–4). An intimate knowledge of Israel's God, which was previously primarily gained through Torah, is now available through the words of Jesus which have made this God known (cf. also vv. 6–8). Lincoln, A. T. (2005). *The Gospel according to Saint John* (p. 435). London: Continuum.

Jeremiah 24:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 31:33–34 (NKJV)

³³ But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

John 17:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

Eternal life is knowing "the only true God" and the one sent by him, Jesus Christ. John does not write that knowing God leads to eternal life, as if it were the reward for faith, but that knowing God, to be in communion with God, *is* life, because God is the source of all life (cf. Col 3:4).

Thompson, M. M. (2015). *John: A Commentary* (First edition, p. 349). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

<u>1. Rightly Knowing God</u> <u>2. Knowing the Right God</u>

- 1. He's the ONLY God
- 2. He's The True God
- 3. His Son is Jesus Christ.

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

1. He's the ONLY God

monos: alone Original Word: μόνος, η, ον Part of Speech: Adjective Transliteration: monos Phonetic Spelling: (mon'-os) Definition: alone Usage: only, solitary, desolate.

We are monotheistic, not polytheistic and pantheistic We believe in ONE God.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one!

James 2:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

John 5:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

1 Timothy 6:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings

and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

1 Corinthians 8:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one.

1 Corinthians 8:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*.

⁷ However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat *it* as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

He's the ONLY God
 He's The Only True God

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only <u>true</u>God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Jeremiah 10:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But the Lord *is* the true God;
 He *is* the living God and the everlasting King.
 At His wrath the earth will tremble,
 And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Exodus 34:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, Revelation 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

<u>1. Rightly Knowing God</u> <u>2. Knowing the Right God</u>

- 1. He's the ONLY God
- 2. He's The True God
- 3. His Son is Jesus Christ.

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 5:23 (NKJV)

²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

1 John 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world.

Jesus is the only way to the One True God.

John 14:6–11 (NKJV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

⁷ "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority;* but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Romans 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (NKJV)

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Timothy 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

2 Timothy 1:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

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