

Lesson 18: Jon 17:3 This is eternal life that we may know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. by Royce Hutain

This is Jesus's prayer. He is defining for us what is eternal life. We often think of life eternal as a period of time, like forever. But it is far more than that. It is knowledge of the only true God. We are talking about quality. Your eternal life is found in experiential knowledge of both God the Father and Jesus Christ, God the son. Eternal life means that we are alive and active to God's environment. If God and His environment do not dominate our life, then it can be said that we do not have eternal life.

The only true God is mentioned because there are many false gods (lower case "g"). How about fame, fortune, and power? How about sexual immorality and fleeting pleasures of sin? How about the man in the abyss who said, "Please warn my brothers not to follow in my footsteps because I thirst and am not offered any water. I am hungry and have no food."

So how can I know God? He is revealed throughout the Bible both in the Old Testament and New Testament. Jesus said, he who has seen me has seen the Father. To know the Father is to be in a close personal relationship with Him. Closeness means marriage. Any marriage requires time, effort, work, and continual communication. Ask my wife! It took time for us to grow in knowledge of one another. At times our relationship grew easily and at other times considerable effort and trust was needed. We grew together over time and even now continue to do so by continual communication.

What a privilege to know our awesome God as he reveals Himself to us!