

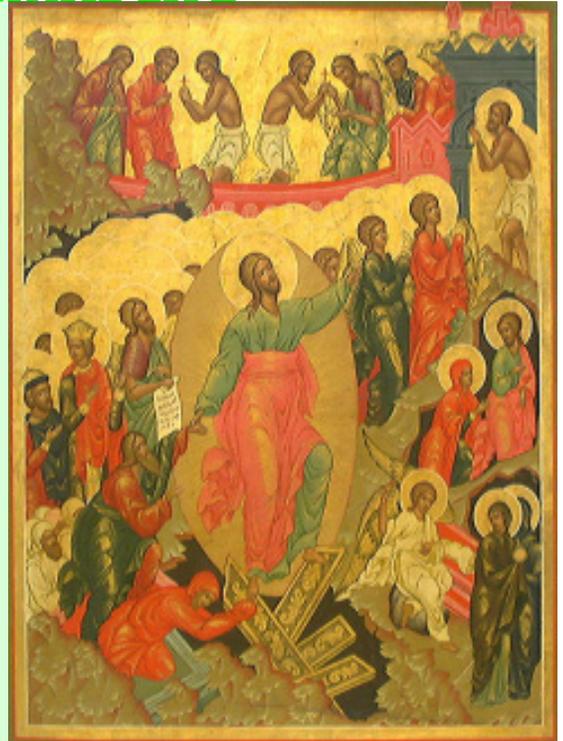
3 • WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE

It is not uncommon to hear people talking about “getting into heaven” or enquiring as to what they must do in order to enter therein – as if a specific checklist of “step-by-step requirements” were readily available.

Our Lord doesn’t speak about “getting into heaven.” He speaks about **the gift of “eternal life”** that **He freely offers to those who believe in Him.**

Jesus makes little distinction between **life here and now**, and **life in the hereafter**. Eternal life begins now – the path to eternal life is initiated at the moment of baptism, as we “put on Christ” and become members of His Body – and continues forever. While, in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, we proclaim that the Kingdom of God is eternal and that we anticipate “the life of the world to come,” **the life of the eternal Kingdom is already fully present, although not yet fully revealed, in the life of the worshipping community, the Church.**

The emphasis is on *living, now and eternally*. In this perspective, what we call “death” is not the end of life; rather, “death” is the parting of the soul from the body, a doorway so to speak from one “room of life” to another, a passing over “from earth to heaven.”



Look up each of the following passages and write down what Jesus Christ says about eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

MATTHEW 25:34

LUKE 10:25-28

LUKE 18:18-30

JOHN 6:43-51

JOHN 6:53-65

JOHN 7:6-8

JOHN 17:1-3

JOHN 10:22-28

LIVING THE ETERNAL LIFE OF GOD'S KINGDOM – NOW!

Putting our faith into action

Read the following parable. What is the connection Jesus makes between living this life and eternal life in His Kingdom?

MATTHEW 25:31-46