



Review

- Part 1: The premise of Christmas is God's infinite love for Creation.
- Part 2: The problem Christmas addresses is that, without Christ, we are perishing in hell.
- Part 3: The prospect of Christmas is salvation through faith in Christ.

Big Idea: The promise of Christmas is eternal life in Christ.

-- Every single person will live *Forever*.

- The question is not, "Will I live forever." The question is, "Where will I live forever and how will it be?" (Daniel 12:2).
- While everyone lives forever, only the redeemed in Christ will see eternal *life*.

-- *What does Jesus mean by "eternal life"?*

1.) Eternal life means redemption from spiritual *Death* (Ephesians 2:1-5).

2.) Eternal life includes an *Already/ Not Yet* stage of salvation (John 5:24).

- For every believer in Christ, eternal life has already begun. It is a settled reality (Philippians 3:20).
- We are already citizens of heaven, but yet we await the coming of the Savior when that hope will be consummated.

3.) Eternal life means never being *Separated* from God.

- In this life, God is present in believers by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- When the physical bodies of believers die, our spirits are ushered immediately into the presence of God (Luke 23:43, 2 Cor. 5:8)
- When Jesus returns, we will live in glory with Him (Colossians 3:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).

4.) Eternal life culminates in bodily *Resurrection*.

- The biblical picture of eternity is not at all like the stereotype.
- The Bible reveals at least two stages of life after death.
 - 1.) Immediate Reception into Paradise (Phil. 1:21-23).
 - 2.) Bodily Resurrection upon Christ's *Return*.
 - a.) When Christ returns, we will be resurrected with new, imperishable bodies (Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:42).
 - b.) Christ's return will inaugurate His *Millennial* rule on earth (Revelation 20:1-6).
 - c.) At the end of the Millennium, Satan will be released again in order to be forever defeated (Revelation 20:7-15).
 - d.) True believers will inherit a *New* heaven and a *New* earth (Revelation 21:1-7).
 - In Christ, God is not only redeeming His people, but all of Creation as well.
 - All that was good before the fall will be perfectly redeemed.

-- It will take an eternity to know the inexhaustible glories of God.

- Don't miss the only Christmas gift that really matters—eternal life in Christ.