

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

341 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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MY NAME

DATE

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LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE

- What It Means** It is interesting that Paul uses the expression “*lay hold on eternal life*” twice, both times in (1 Tim 6) where he is warning against man’s wisdom and worldly infatuation. We know (Mk 16:16) that “*he that _____ and is _____ shall be _____.*” This means salvation from sin, therefore eternal salvation. The hope of eternal salvation is not fully assured until one has (Rev 2:10) been “*_____ unto death*” and receives “*a crown of life,*” a metaphor for (1 Jn 2:25) “*eternal _____.*”
- Lay Hold** This indicates action to be taken. Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:12) to “*fight the _____ of faith*” in order to “*lay hold on _____ life.*” We know (1 Pet 2:11) that “*fleshly _____ against the _____*” but that (Rev 14:13) good “*_____ do follow*” those who “*die in the _____.*” During the Christian lifetime one must emulate Paul who (2 Tim 4:7) “*_____ a good fight*” and “*_____ my course*” and “*_____ the faith.*”
- Prepare: Lay Up In Store** (1 Tim 6:19) “*Laying up in store for _____ a good _____ against the _____ to _____.*” The phrase “*time to come*” means eternity. The Christian’s one foundation (1 Cor 3:11) “*is _____*” because the NT Church (Eph 2:20) is “*built upon the _____ of the _____ and _____, Jesus Christ himself being the _____.*” The phrase “*laying up in store*” denotes action. Why is this labor necessary? **Answer:** “*That they may _____ on _____ life.*”
- Can One Possess Eternal Life Now?** By “now” we mean during one’s temporal life. The answer is Y-E-S, but it is a conditional yes. Obviously one has to die in order to enter eternity therefore the obedient child of God possesses only “temporary” eternal life while he is yet alive on earth. Why? Because it remains possible for him to (Gal 5:4) become “*_____ from _____*” and (Heb 3:12) develop “*an _____ heart of _____, in _____ from the living God.*” Once he dies full of faith to God he then possesses “permanent” eternal life.
- More** Some contend that you can’t have it now. That’s silly! Why would Paul command us to “*lay hold on eternal life*” if it can’t be done? Others say that once you’ve got it you can’t lose it. That’s silly too! They misunderstand (1 Jn 3:9), ignoring the middle part of the sentence. They read only, “*Whosoever is born of God --- cannot sin, because he is born of God.*” Jesus explained: (Lk 8:11) “*The _____ is the _____ of _____.*” Read the middle part of (1 Jn 3:9). It tells us why (contextually) this one can’t sin: “*For his seed _____.*”
- The Test** The Bible plainly teaches (see references above) that one can fall from grace and depart from the living God. Christian are told to (Col 3:16), “*Let the _____ of _____ dwell in you _____ in all wisdom.*” When we abandon the precepts of God’s Word at any time we are vulnerable to sin because (Eph 3:17) we disallow Christ to “*_____ in your hearts _____*” and (Rom 10:17) “*faith _____ by hearing---the _____ of God.*”