

God cannot give this great blessing to those who think they can do something to obtain it. If it were so it would not be a gift at all, it would be something you had obtained by doing. This God cannot have. He will not allow anyone to glory in His presence. You must have it as a free gift, or it never can be yours. "The gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Not of works, or doings, lest any man should boast. But when you have received eternal life at the hands of God, then doings begin immediately; and the more you can do for Him who has given it to you the better, because you have a foundation to build upon—you can work and never tire, and God can accept it. Let me give you an example: when the apostle Paul first preached the gospel at Thessalonica, he found them worshipping idols. There were some of them no doubt doing the best they could, and thought it would be all right with them at the last. But they were serving Satan and not God, and when they received the Lord Jesus Christ they cast away their idols to serve the living and true God, and waited for His Son from heaven, even Jesus, who delivered them from the wrath to come. Now let me beg of you to do likewise. Receive the Lord Jesus, and eternal life and glory will be yours (John i. 12). You can then cast away every idol from your heart, and like these Thessalonians, you will be glad to see His face whenever that happy moment comes.

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