

11.16.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Quantity vs. Quality”

Scripture Reading: [1 John 5:1-12](#) ; [Matthew 19:16-30](#) ; [Luke 10:25-37](#) ; [John 3](#) ; [John 6:25-70](#) ; [John 17:1-5](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

Quantity or Quality?

When it comes to quantity or quality, which type of person are you? If you had to pick only one of these two, which one would you pick? If you had to explain the difference between these two, quantity and quality, how would you explain it?

In trying to figure out the quantity vs. quality dilemma myself and what is the difference between the two, one article I read said this:

“The main difference between quality and quantity is the fact that quality refers to the characteristic or feature of something, whereas quantity refers to the numerical value of something.”

In our text for this week, John reminds us that only the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God is able to overcome the world (1 John 5:5). John goes on later in this section of 1 John 5:1-12 to remind us that “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12)” When you and I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, John says we receive eternal life.

But what is eternal life? Is eternal life a quantity of life? Or is eternal life a quality of life? Or is it both?

When you hear the word eternal, what typically comes to your mind? Quantity? Or Quality?

The word eternal that John uses here in this verse is the Greek word αἰώνιος ([aiónios](#)). This word, aionios, often translated as eternal, is an “...adjective, derived from *aíōn* which means ‘an *age*, having a particular *character* and *quality*.’ Aion refers to the quality describing a particular age. Aionios refers to “...the unique *quality* (or reality) of God's life at work in the believer.” “Eternal (aionios) life...” therefore “...operates simultaneously *outside* of time, *inside* of time, and beyond time.”

When John says we receive eternal life from believing in Jesus the Son of God, John is saying that you and I can receive a quality of life that can be found nowhere else. It is a life that can be found in no one else. It can be found only in Jesus Christ.

For example, Jesus, and only Jesus, can break down the “...wall of hostility...” on account of our sin that exists between us and others, and us and our God. (see [Ephesians 2](#)) Only on account of Jesus are we able to live a life of fellowship with God and with others. Or another example that John uses in our text for this week is overcoming. John reminds us if we want to experience a quality of life that is able to overcome the sin within and around us, this type of life can only be found through Jesus Christ. ⁴⁵Who is it that overcomes the world?

Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (1 John 5:5)

John wanted the church of his day to experience a quality of life that can only be found by believing and receiving Jesus as the Son of God. John wants us to experience the quality of life that can only be found in Jesus too. When we believe and receive Jesus as the Son of God, when we believe and receive Jesus’ teaching and instruction for our lives, when we believe and receive the grace, mercy, and forgiveness that Jesus offers to all who believe and receive Him, we receive a quality of life that can be found nowhere else. We receive eternal life! We receive an eternal life that is available today (see John 3) and forever ([1 Peter 1](#)).

Prayer:

Father in Heaven, in your word to us this week, we are reminded that you give us eternal life, and this life in your Son, Jesus. If we have Jesus, the Son of God, we have life. If we do not have Jesus, we do not have life. Spirit of God, help us to believe and receive the gift of eternal life that only Jesus offers. Help us to keep Jesus and his teaching and instruction and will for our lives at the top of our “must-have” list. In Jesus’ name – our life, light, and love – we pray. Amen.

Action Item for Day/Week:

Make of list of some things in life that you can’t imagine living without. What do you notice about these things? What did you learn? What quality of life to they provide? How does the quality of life they provide compare to the quality of life that Jesus, the Son of God, is able to provide?

Songs for today:

[I Will Rise](#)

[In Christ Alone](#)

[The Church’s One Foundation](#)

[Love Devine All Love’s Excelling](#)

[Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing](#)