

John 5:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Analysis

This verse contains three astounding promises to those who hear Christ's word and believe the Father: eternal life (present possession), no condemnation (judicial acquittal), and passing from death to life (completed transition). The perfect tense 'hath' indicates present, permanent possession of eternal life—not future hope but current reality. 'Shall not come into condemnation' promises believers escape judgment (Romans 8:1). The transfer from death to life is past tense ('is passed'), indicating a decisive, completed event at conversion.

Historical Context

This directly contradicts works-based Judaism which saw eternal life as future reward for covenant faithfulness. Jesus offers immediate, complete salvation through faith alone. The terminology of 'life' and 'death' as present spiritual states was revolutionary.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do you have assurance of eternal life now, or are you hoping to earn it?
2. How does knowing you've already 'passed from death to life' impact your daily security in Christ?

Interlinear Text

ἀμὴν	ἀμὴν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	ὁ	τὸν	λόγον	μου
Verily	Verily	I say	unto you	G3754	G3588	G3588	word	my
G281	G281	G3004	G5213				G3056	G3450
ἀκούων	καὶ	πιστεύων	τῷ	πέμψαντί	με	ἔχει	ζωὴν	
He that heareth	and	believeth	G3588	on him that sent	me	hath	life	
G191	G2532	G4100		G3992	G3165	G2192	G2222	
αἰώνιον	καὶ	εἰς	κρίσιν	οὐκ	ἔρχεται	ἀλλὰ		
everlasting	and	into	condemnation	not	come	but		
G166	G2532	G1519	G2920	G3756	G2064	G235		
μεταβέβηκεν	ἐκ	τοῦ	θανάτου	εἰς	τὴν	ζωὴν		
is passed	from	G3588	death	into	G3588	life		
G3327	G1537		G2288	G1519		G2222		

Additional Cross-References

John 3:36 (Faith): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:18 (Faith): He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 6:40 (Faith): And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Romans 8:1 (Parallel theme): There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

John 6:47 (Faith): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 3:16 (Faith): For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 11:26 (Faith): And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 20:31 (Faith): But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John 8:51 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (Parallel theme): For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,