

Tract Number Four  
“That They Might Know Thee”

NOTES FROM THE TEXTBOOK



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John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

**T**he Gospel of John is one of the great New Testament books. It is a favorite of mine because it not only theorizes the Christian life, but presents it as a practical and useful way of life. Historically, the Apostle John uses the same approach as the other gospel writers in giving facts concerning the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The significant difference, however is the interpretation of the facts. This journalistic style of John sets his gospel apart and makes for very interesting reading.

In the above text, the Apostle John speaks on an important subject – Eternal life. For the Christian believer, it is not mere rites and rituals or even religion that John speaks of, but life. It is life of the highest quality. This nobility is a natural outflow because the source of this new life is from God himself.

In the earlier chapters of John's synopsis, he has given information on how to obtain this life. It is simply to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and he gives unto us eternal life. (John 3:16) Note that John says – Eternal life. The span of this new life is from the moment of acceptance throughout eternity. The Christian life is eternal because it stems from God, who in Himself is eternal, without limitations of time and space.

Furthermore, it is eternally ours so that we shall never be lost, “and I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish” (John 10:27-28) It is not presumptuous to be assured of this fact, that if you have really trusted Jesus Christ as Savior, you are His and you shall never perish.

The Apostle not only considers the span of this life, but also the nature of it: That They Might Know Thee. The knowledge that John speaks of is intellectual, as well as experiential. Intellectual knowledge is important because it is the fuel that develops confidence. Reading certain passages of the Bible reassures us of God’s promises and strengthens us and gives us greater confidence, but this is only half of the process; the second is to experience what we know.

The satisfaction in this new life comes when we apply what we learn to real life situations. It is more practical than it is theoretical. The Christian life is a life of experiencing the sufficiency of Jesus Christ, seeing that he is able to supply all our needs according to his riches in glory.

Dear friend, has it been your daily experience to allow Jesus Christ to meet your need, and supply the strength to cope with life situations? If not, why not start today and discover that God is true to his word.