

What is eternal life?

It is that time again when we encounter the change from the old year to the new. For some the ushering in of a new year is a ritual of staying up until midnight to make a bunch of noise or perhaps sing an old song. Yet in one way or another, the beginning of a new year is a time of reflection and planning. We take stock of what happened in the last year. We think of our pains, regrets, joys, surprises, births, and deaths. We also look to the future and ponder what we want to do differently in days to come.

In all of our planning, though, there is this unalterable fact that life here will end. Our time is finite. It has a limit. Come to think about it, everything about this world has a limit.

The Bible tells us of one thing, however, that has no end. Referring to his believers Jesus said, "I give them eternal life" (John 10:28). In view of our knowledge and experience of limited life in this world, we wonder what eternal life is.

Jesus explains, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24). Life is being connected to God and his blessings. The opposite is death which is separation from God and his goodness. All people are born separated from God because by nature they are sinners. As a result, they are headed toward an eternal separation from God to be condemned in a very real place called hell.

But God did something very great. He sent the world a Savior who is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God. In an unmatched act of love, Jesus placed himself under our condemnation for sin. He willingly suffered the death sentence that all of us deserve.

Through Jesus God has forgiven the world's sin which separated people from him, and he gives the gift of eternal life. All who listen to the Savior and believe in God who sent him have eternal life. By faith in the true God of salvation they have crossed over from death to life. They do not face the fear of separation from God, but they rejoice in a close and blessed relationship with him now and forever.

What a great way to start a new year! We have the confidence that no matter what has happened in days gone by and whatever the future holds, our life with God is secured forever by faith in Jesus.

Mr. Bush's Room

Tis the Season!

Tis the season for preparation! December is a time filled with preparation for all of the things that occur during the holiday season. From preparations for the Christmas Eve program to preparation for the upcoming basketball tournaments, or preparations for the new year, this is truly a busy and energized month. All too often though, these preparations can distract for the true thing we need to prepare for. This season of Advent we should ever focus our attention of preparing our hearts for the coming of our Savior. As we recall His coming in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago, let us also prepare our hearts for our coming Lord. In words of Isaiah, "Make straight the way for the Lord!"

A Fledgling Nation

The early part of the 19th century proved to be an important time in the development of our country. In our current studies of U.S. History we are studying the conflicts and situations that arose during these times that helped to shape our country into what it is today. Numerous topics from: The War of 1812, The Barbary Pirates, McCulloch v. Maryland, The Monroe Doctrine, The Cession of Florida, and the economic collapse of 1837 all prove to be integral in making our nation

who and what we are today. Is your history a little fuzzy? Having a problem with remembering a couple of those? Check with any upper grade student for a quick refresher!

Knights' Basketball

As the days grow shorter and winter begins to set in, it must be time for basketball season to start! Our Knights recently have started practices for our three tournaments later this school year. With a large contingent of eighth graders we are certainly set for an exciting season ahead of us! This year we will be participating in the North Hollywood Tournament, the Reformation Tournament, and the 8th Annual C-Hawk Invitational Tournament. Lets all make sure to cheer on all the players as they work to do their best on the court to the glory of their Lord and Savior!

Dates to Remember

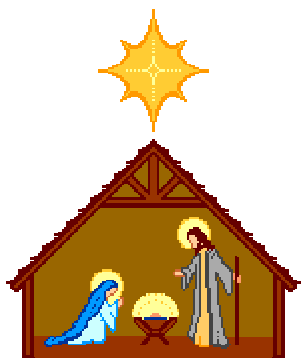
December 23 - 11:30am Dismissal

December 24 - 6:00pm Childrens' Service
8:00pm Candlelight Service

December 25 - 9:00am Worship

December 31 - 7:00pm Worship

January 7 - Classes Resume





the difference
1 can make.

You Can Make a Difference for Our School with Box Tops!

We are half way through our 2009-2010 Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign. Since 1996, Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools raise **over \$300 million** to buy the things they need. School budgets are tighter than ever, and Zion is asking for the support of families and community members.

Here's how you can help:

- **Clip** Box Top coupons from favorite products and send them to our school.
- **Sign up to support** our school on the Box Tops website at btfe.com
- **Shop** at over 100 favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace® (btfe.com/marketplace); our school earns up to 15% of your qualifying purchases, at no additional cost to you!
- **Purchase books** through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM at Barnes & Noble; our school earns up to 6% of your purchases.

Sign up to support our school today at www.btfe.com. You'll get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops for our school and the latest Box Tops news!

For more information on how you can help our school earn cash through Box Tops, contact Susan Hokenson, our Box Tops coordinator, at hokenson70@verizon.net or visit btfe.com.



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