**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**October 28th 2018. The Creed**

**Discussion notes: Life Everlasting 1 Corinthians 15**

This week we are concluding our series by looking at "Life Everlasting". What hints does the Bible give us about life after death and how we might be spending eternity?

We understand about everlasting life from passages like [John 3:16](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/John%203.16): “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” The everlasting life Jesus spoke of is not simply the unending life of eternity. It speaks of a quality of life. Some scholars even translate the idea of the words everlasting life into “life from heaven” or “life from above.” It means that we believe God gives "His kind of life" to us.

**Read: John 5v24-29**

24‘Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. 25Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. 26For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.28‘Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29and come out – those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

1. What do you think happens to you when you die?

2. How do you think you will spend eternity?

Life everlasting begins when we receive Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. Eternal life is defined in relational terms rather than in terms of time.

John 17 v 3Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

3. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

**Read: Revelations 21 v1-8, 22v1-5**

Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death” or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’

5He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ 6He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. 8But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practise magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.’

Chapter 22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

These verses give as a picture language view of what our future hope will be like

4. You might understand why there needs to be a new earth, but why do you think we need a new heaven?

5. How do you feel about the fact that heaven comes to us rather than us going to heaven?

6. What things *will not* be part of the new Heaven/new Earth experience?

7. What things *will* be part of the new Heaven/new Earth experience?

8. How do we ensure that we (and our friends and family) will be part of this new heaven/new earth experience rather than experiencing the "second death"?