

on the last article of the Creed, "*and life everlasting. Amen,*"

Biblical Evidence

John 3:16: "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*"

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

Romans 6:23 "*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

1 John 5:11-12: "*And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*"

Fathers of the Church

St. Gregory of Nyssa:

"The true goal of the Christian life is not merely the vision of God, but that the soul should become godlike and unite with the Divine" (*The Life of Moses*).

St. Gregory of Nyssa describes eternal life as an unending communion with God, characterized by a continuous ascent into His love and an ever-deepening union with the Divine. This reflects the dynamic and transformative nature of eternal life, where the soul is in a state of perpetual growth in holiness and intimacy with God.

St. Augustine:

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (*Confessions*, I.1).

St. Augustine's famous declaration underscores the innate longing of the human heart for God, which finds its ultimate fulfillment in eternal life. This restlessness and yearning will be satisfied in the eternal presence of God, where the soul will experience perfect peace and joy.

St. Augustine

"There we shall rest and see, see and love, love and praise. This is what shall be in the end without end. For what other end do we propose to ourselves than to attain to the kingdom of which there is no end?" (*City of God*, Book 22, Chapter 30)

St. Irenaeus

"The Church, though dispersed throughout the whole world, even to the ends of the earth, has received from the apostles and their disciples this faith: ... the resurrection of the dead, and eternal life in the kingdom of heaven." (*Against Heresies*, Book I, Chapter 10, Section 1)

St. Thomas Aquinas

"Eternal life consists in the joyous community of all the blessed, a community of supreme delight. The blessed are not rendered solitary by their exaltation. They are all made one in the supreme enjoyment of God, and all rejoice in the happiness of one another. Their joy is the joy of all, and the joy of each is the joy of all." (*Summa Theologica*, I-II, Q. 4, Art. 8)

Saints

St. Thérèse of Lisieux:

Quote: "I am not dying; I am entering life" (Last Words).

Reflection: St. Thérèse of Lisieux viewed death not as an end but as a passage into true life—eternal life with God. Her perspective emphasizes the hope and joy that characterize the Christian belief in life everlasting, where the faithful will be united with God in their true home.

St. John Chrysostom:

Quote: "For what can ever equal the pleasure of Paradise? Or what can be imagined more beautiful than the Kingdom of Christ? There, all is full of light, and more brilliant than the rays of the sun" (*Homilies on Ephesians*).

Reflection: St. John Chrysostom highlights the incomparable beauty and joy of eternal life in the Kingdom of Christ. This vivid depiction of Paradise encourages believers to strive for holiness and to look forward with great anticipation to their heavenly inheritance.

St. Catherine of Siena:

Quote: "All the way to heaven is heaven, because Jesus said, 'I am the Way.'" (Dialogues).

Reflection: St. Catherine of Siena teaches that the journey toward eternal life is itself imbued with the presence of Christ. This means that even now, believers can experience a foretaste of eternal life through their relationship with Jesus.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

CCC 1020-1060:

CCC 1024

"Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness."

CCC 1027

"This mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description. Scripture speaks of it in images: life, light, peace, wedding feast, wine of the kingdom, the Father's house, the heavenly Jerusalem, paradise: 'no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.'"

CCC 1053

"We believe that the multitude of those gathered around Jesus and Mary in Paradise forms the Church of heaven, where in eternal blessedness they see God as he is, and where they also, to various degrees, are associated with the holy angels in the divine governance exercised by Christ in glory, by interceding for us and helping our weakness by their fraternal concern."

Conclusion

The last article of the Creed, "and life everlasting. Amen," encapsulates the ultimate hope and goal of the Christian faith: eternal life with God. The teachings and reflections of the Fathers of the Church, saints, the Catechism, and Scripture together paint a rich picture of what this eternal life entails. It is a life of unending joy, peace, and communion with God, where the soul finds its true rest and fulfillment. This belief inspires Christians to live in hope and faith, looking forward to the glorious future that awaits them in the presence of their Creator.