

WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

WHERE CAN WE FIND ETERNAL LIFE?

1 JOHN 5:6-13

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

WHERE CAN WE FIND ETERNAL LIFE?

1 JOHN 5:6–13

He Came by Water and by Blood

The Testimony of God is Greater

This Life is in His Son

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the entire book of 1 John again! You will see new things every time, and it will only take you about 15 minutes!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

SEPTEMBER 7: EZEKIEL 35-37
SEPTEMBER 8: EZEKIEL 38-39
SEPTEMBER 9: EZEKIEL 40-41
SEPTEMBER 10: EZEKIEL 42-43
SEPTEMBER 11: EZEKIEL 44-45
SEPTEMBER 12: EZEKIEL 46-48
SEPTEMBER 13: JOEL

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 14, 21 & 28

Do you want to learn more about Bell Creek? Do you consider Bell Creek your church family? Are you interested in becoming a member of Bell Creek? Join us for our three week membership seminar, offered during each service, to learn more about who we are and what we are about! If you plan on attending but cannot make one of the dates, contact dylan@bellcreek.org.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, the Wednesday morning class invites you to join us as we begin a new study in the Gospel of Matthew, beginning on Wednesday, Sept 24. The class runs from 9:30-11:00 AM in the prayer room and is open to all women. We hope you will consider joining us as we spend time digging into God's word together and learning what the Spirit reveals. For more information, please contact Mari at 734-293-6903 or Renee at 313-522-3127.

BAPTISM

Our next Baptism opportunity will be on Sunday, September 28. If you are interested in being baptized as a believer, please contact Pastor Adam (adam@bellcreek.org).

ART OF MARRIAGE CLASS

Mike & Mary King and Alex & Elyse Quint will be leading a 3-day Marriage Class in November. The class will consist of a series of videos, work together as a couple, and group discussions. This is the same series as the class we hosted in May, so if you already did the class, you do not need to repeat it. The class will meet on the following dates: Friday, November 14, 6:30-9:00 PM; Saturday, November 15, 6:30-9:00 PM; Sunday, November 16, 6:30-9:00 PM. To register for the class, you can do so by visiting www.bellcreek.org. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org) or Elyse Quint (elyse@bellcreek.org).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

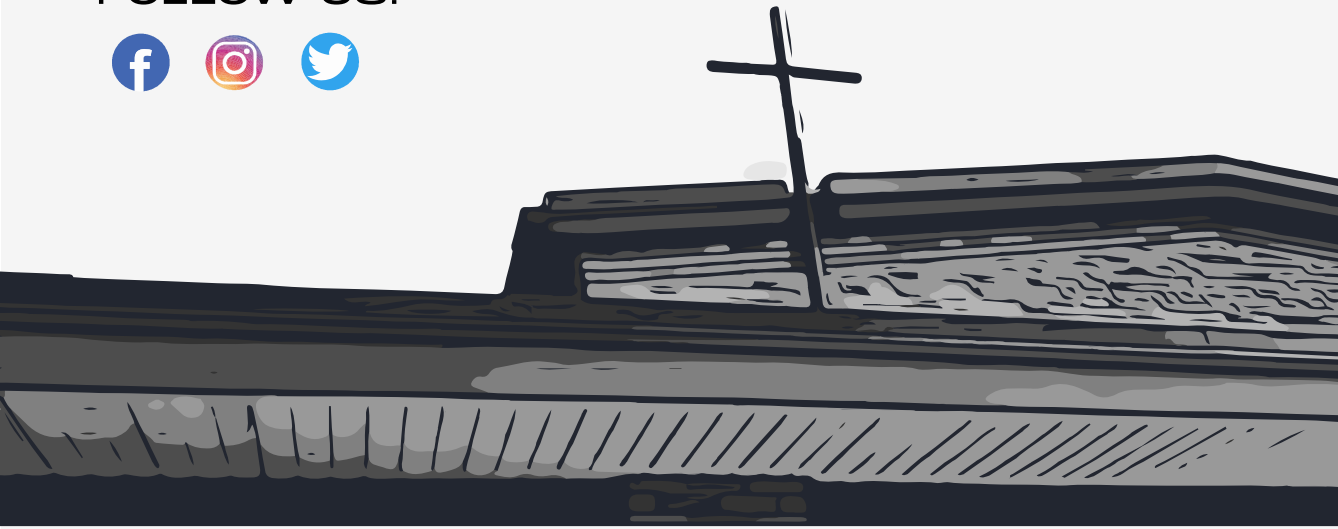
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon 09.07.2025

1 John 5:6-13

Sermon Title: Where Can We Find Eternal Life?

1. He Came by Water and Blood

“Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5, ESV)

“This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (1 John 5:6, ESV).

For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. (1 John 5:7-8, ESV).

John seems to be addressing errors from a man named Cerinthus:

Who was Cerinthus? Cerinthus was active in the late 1st century AD, likely between AD 80–100. He was a contemporary with the Apostle John, probably in Asia Minor (Ephesus and surrounding regions).

He was described by Irenaeus (a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of John) as “educated in the wisdom of the Egyptians” (Against Heresies 1.26.1), implying a possible Hellenistic-Jewish background and philosophical training.

His teachings regarding Jesus (as reported by Irenaeus, Eusebius, and other early church fathers):

Cerinthus taught that Jesus was born naturally to Joseph and Mary, not of a virgin, and that Jesus was a righteous and wise man, but not divine by nature. Also, he maintained that “The Christ” (a divine spirit) descended upon Jesus at His baptism (“water”). Further, Cerinthus stated that this “divine Christ” left Jesus before His crucifixion (“blood”), meaning the divine did not suffer or die.

Here’s the quote from Irenaeus: “Cerinthus, again, a man who was educated in the wisdom of the Egyptians, taught that the world was not made by the primary God, but by a certain Power far separated from Him, and at a distance from that Principality who is supreme over the universe, and ignorant of Him who is above all. He represented Jesus as having not been born of a virgin, but as being the son of Joseph and Mary according to the ordinary course of human generation, while He was nevertheless more righteous, prudent, and wise than other men. Moreover, after His baptism, Christ descended upon Him in the form of a dove from the Supreme Ruler, and that then He proclaimed the unknown Father, and performed miracles; but at last Christ departed from Jesus, and that then Jesus suffered and rose again, while Christ remained impassible, inasmuch as He was a spiritual being.” — Against Heresies 1.26.1 (ANF, vol. 1, p. 352)

So, Cerinthus split Jesus into two beings — a merely “human” Jesus who lived and died, and a divine “Christ” who came upon the human Jesus at baptism and left before the crucifixion.

The Scriptures say the exact opposite: from His incarnation onward, Jesus Christ is one person who is fully God and fully man. And that one person experienced all of life, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection.

So in biblical Christology: Jesus, the Son of God is the one who was baptized (He came by “water”) and the one who sheds His blood (He came by “blood”).

There’s no “Spirit of Christ leaving” before the cross! The Son of God was and is one person – fully God and fully man.

Why Does this Matter?

Here’s why: The one person of Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, endured the full range of human life. The Scriptures say He was a “man of sorrows” and “acquainted with grief.” He faced temptation, rejection, loss, physical pain, and the anguish of the cross. The same Jesus who was baptized in the Jordan is the Savior who shed His blood for you. The Son of God, who is God, did not shrink back from death. He went through it for you! He bore your sins, died in your place, and rose again. Because of this, He is your Great High Priest who can “sympathize with our weaknesses” (Hebrews 4:15). He doesn’t just know about suffering from a distance; He walked through it Himself. That means He understands you completely, loves you unshakably, and intercedes for you faithfully. So remember, when you are in pain, you are not alone - the One who saved you has been there and goes with you now. Let’s ask ourselves this: “If Jesus has walked through every valley - including death - for me, what would it look like to trust Him fully with the valley I’m in right now?”

2. The Testimony of God is Greater

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

How has God given testimony regarding His Son?

Old Testament Testimony Regarding the Son of God

Genesis 3:15 – “He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Genesis 22:18 – “In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”

2 Samuel 7:13–14 – “I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.”

Psalms 2:7 – “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

Isaiah 7:14 – “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 9:6-7 – “For to us a child is born... and his name shall be called... Mighty God.”

Isaiah 42:1 – “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.”

Isaiah 53:5 – “He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities.”

Micah 5:2 – “From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old.”

Zechariah 9:9 – “Behold, your king is coming to you... humble and mounted on a donkey.”

New Testament Testimony Regarding the Son of God

Matthew 3:17 – “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 17:5 – “This is my beloved Son... listen to him.”

John 5:36 – “The works that the Father has given me... bear witness about me.”

John 8:18 – “I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father... bears witness about me.”

John 12:28 – “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

Acts 2:36 – “God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Acts 10:38-39 – “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth... They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.”

Romans 1:4 – “[He was] declared to be the Son of God... by his resurrection from the dead.”

Hebrews 1:1-2 – “In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.”

Hebrews 2:4 – “God also bore witness... by signs and wonders and various miracles.”

For those unsure about Jesus:

God hasn't left the identity of Jesus to speculation or rumor - He has given a clear and consistent testimony across the whole sweep of Scripture. From the earliest promises in Genesis, through the prophets, to the direct voice of the Father in the New Testament, God has confirmed that Jesus is His Son, the promised Savior, the crucified and risen Lord.

If you doubt or feel uncertain about Jesus, remember: rejecting Him is not merely rejecting an idea or a philosophy - it is rejecting God's own testimony. The same God who spoke through the prophets, who affirmed His Son at the Jordan River, and who raised Him from the dead, is calling you to believe. The question is not whether there is enough evidence, but whether you will trust the One who gave it. So, we need to ask ourselves, “If God Himself has testified this clearly about Jesus in both the Old and New Testaments, what is keeping me from believing Him - and how will I respond to His testimony today?”

3. This Life is in His Son

Where can we find eternal life?

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” (1 John 5:11, ESV)

What will eternal life be like?

Fullness of Joy in God's Presence - "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." — Psalm 16:11

No More Death, Mourning, Crying, or Pain - "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." — Revelation 21:4

Seeing God Face to Face - "They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever." — Revelation 22:4-5

Perfect Knowledge and Fellowship with God - "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." — 1 Corinthians 13:12

Eternal Satisfaction - "They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light." — Psalm 36:8-9

Inheriting a Kingdom Prepared by God - "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" — Matthew 25:34

Eternal Glory - "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." — 1 Peter 5:10

Shining Like the Sun - "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear." — Matthew 13:43

Everlasting Fellowship and Comfort - "And so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words." — 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

Righteousness Dwelling There - "But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." — 2 Peter 3:13

What Will Be Absent in Eternal Life?

No Death - "...and death shall be no more..." — Revelation 21:4

No Sickness - "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy." — Isaiah 35:5-6

No Decay or Corruption - "For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality." — 1 Corinthians 15:53

No Sorrow or Tears - "...neither shall there be mourning, nor crying..." — Revelation 21:4

No Evil or Curse - "No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him." — Revelation 22:3

"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:12, ESV)

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13, ESV)

This is Our Hope!

If you are in Christ, eternal life is already yours! Because of Jesus, it's not just a promise for the future, but a present reality. The Scriptures remind us that eternal life is knowing God and His Son (John 17:3), enjoying His presence where there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11), and looking forward to a future free from death, sorrow, and evil (Revelation 21:4; 22:3–5). This hope should shape our values, strengthen us in trials, and inspire us to live with purpose, holiness, and joy now, because the best is yet to come.

In light of the eternal life, joy, and glory promised to you in Christ, what is one way you will live today that reflects your true home and everlasting future?

BENEDICTION

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

(Jude 24–25, ESV)