

possession of every believer in Jesus Christ.

In First John 5:11-13 we read:

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.<sup>122</sup>

In verse eleven of this passage, the Greek noun *μαρτυρία* which is translated "record" means "testimony."<sup>123</sup> The Greek verb *ἔδωκεν* which is translated "hath given" is in the aorist tense, and the use of the aorist tense in this verb is constative, which means that it treats the action which is expressed by the verb as a single whole.<sup>124</sup> Since this verb is also in the indicative mood, the action which is expressed by this verb is viewed as having already taken place. The Greek phrase *ὅτι ζωὴν αἰώνιον ἔδωκεν ὁ θεὸς ἡμῶν* which is translated "that God hath given to us eternal life" constitutes the content of the testimony which God gave concerning His Son, and that testimony was that God gave to John and the ones to whom he wrote this epistle eternal life. The Greek phrase *καὶ αὕτη ἡ ζωὴ ἐν τῷ υἱῷ αὐτοῦ ἔσται* which is translated "and this life is in his Son" means that God's Son is the source of eternal life, and this phrase along with all of verse twelve of this passage expresses the assurance which John and the ones to whom he wrote this epistle had that they possessed eternal life.

In verse twelve the Greek nouns *ζωήν* which are translated "life"

<sup>122</sup>I John 5:11-13.

<sup>123</sup>Thayer, *op. cit.*, p. 391.

<sup>124</sup>Robertson, *op. cit.*, p. 832.