

of the verb.¹²⁸ The Greek verb ἔχετε which is translated "ye have" is in the present tense. Thus the Greek phrase ἵνα εἰδῆτε ὅτι ζωὴν ἔχετε αἰώνιον which is translated "that ye may know that ye have eternal life" expresses the purpose for which John wrote the things in this epistle, and that purpose was that the ones to whom John wrote the things in this epistle might actually know that they had eternal life as a present possession. The Greek phrase τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ which is translated "and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" should be translated "to the ones who are believing on the name of the Son of God,"¹²⁹ and it describes the ones to whom John wrote the things in this epistle as those who were believing on God's Son as God's Son who possessed all the attributes of deity.

In this passage, therefore, John said that the testimony which God gave concerning His Son was that God gave to him and the ones to whom he wrote this epistle eternal life. He said that the assurance which he and the ones to whom he wrote this epistle had that they possessed eternal life was that God's Son was the source of that life, and that since God's Son was the source of that life, the one who was possessing God's Son by believing on Him as God's Son had eternal life as a present possession, but the one who was not possessing God's Son did not have eternal life as a present possession. He then said that he wrote the things in this epistle to the ones who were believing on God's Son as God's Son who possessed all the attributes of deity in order that they might actually know that they had eternal life as a present possession.

¹²⁸Robertson, *op. cit.*, p. 835.

¹²⁹Nestle, *op. cit.*, p. 606.