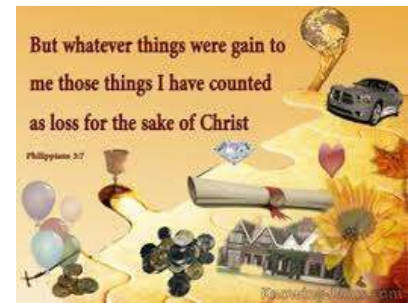


ALL THAT WE *NEED* IS FOUND IN CHRIST

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” **(Philippians 3:7-8)**



Jesus Himself said to the woman in Samaria who had come to draw water from Jacob's well

“Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” **(John 4:14)**

- **We all were made to have fellowship with God**
- **Only Jesus can meet our deepest needs in life**
 - i. **To be *always* loved and accepted**
 - ii. **To have a *sense of identity* (Our value and sense of self worth must always come from who we are in Christ – That we have been uniquely created by God)**
 - iii. **To have security (Only God can promise to meet our every NEED in life), and**
 - iv. **To have a PURPOSE in life (A reason for getting out of bed every day – As believers we can make an eternal difference in the lives of many others)**

- **The moment we open our hearts to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith we enter into a personal relationship with God and that empty vacuum in our life is filled with His love**

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

- **It is our ongoing love for God that will enable us to be successful and fulfilled in every area of our life**
- **It is our love for God that will also enable us to consistently love others in a right manner**

Jesus made this clear when He said, “‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” (Mark 12:30) “‘And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31)

- **Putting Christ continually first in our life is the key to living a life of great purpose and meaning**

Jesus Himself said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” **(Romans 12:1)**

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

- **As Christians we must never be drawn away from the simply reality that all that we need in life is found in Christ at a time when the world is drifting away from and even opposing many of the fundamentals values of the Christian faith**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all the principality and power.” **(Colossians 2:4-10)**

- **The Apostle Paul also wrote in relation to the times that we are now living in**

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, *having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

- **Given the times that we are now living in and because TRUE fulfilment can only be found in Christ, it is crucial that we CULTIVATE our relationship with Christ by MAKING time to spend with Him on a consistent basis to get to know Him intimately**

- **Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of spending quality time with Him**

In the gospel of Luke we read,

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:38-42)

- **As Christians it is good to never forget how Jesus Christ made such a great difference in our life when we first opened up our heart to Him – That we never become just religious in our Christian walk – That we always maintain our first love for Jesus**

King David wrote,

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits**;
Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with
loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth
with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”
(Psalm 103:2-5)

- **So today I would just like to remind us all again about all the benefits that we have in Christ and how IN Him we can live a life of great purpose and meaning, EVEN during the storms of life**
- **If today you have not yet accepted Christ I pray that this message will encourage you to do so**
- **Christianity is all about having a loving relationship with the God of the universe through faith in Christ where we can partner with Him to help see His Kingdom being established here on earth**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” **(Ephesians 1:3)**

- **I will now briefly look at some of the many blessings that we can enjoy as Christians as well as looking at some of the benefits that we have as believers**

1) When we come to Christ all of our sins are forgiven and forgotten by God

- **As Christians we have no more shame or guilt because of our past sins and failures**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” **(Romans 8:1)**

- **When we come to Christ we have a new start to life and ALL of our sins are forgiven and forgotten by God**

In the book of Isaiah we read, “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.” **(Isaiah 43:25)**

- **As Christians we need to just accept this fact and move on into the future that God has planned for our life**

- **As Christians God is always willing to forgive our transgressions so that we can continually have sweet FELLOWSHIP with Him**

The Apostle John wrote, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **(1 John 1:9)**

**2) That as believer's we can enjoy God's continual love for us knowing that nothing can ever separate us from His love
(As Christians we are always secure in His love. Only God is able to love us at all times)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **(Romans 8:38-39)**

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“...For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” **(Hebrew 13:5-6)**

Jesus Himself said,

“... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” **(Matthew 28:20)**

3) We can depend on God's supernatural strength to do those things that He calls us to do in life

- God's strength is made perfect in our weakness**
- God will always give us the strength to endure any trial in life**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

- Whatever God puts on our heart to do in life He will give us the ability and power to accomplish these things**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)

- **The simple fact is that we can achieve greater things in His strength than in our own strength**
- The Apostle Paul wrote,** “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)
- **It is in the will of God for our life and just doing what Jesus tells us to do, that we see God’s enabling power manifesting most**
 - **God will also at times allow us to be stretched in life to help us to LEARN to depend more on His enabling power in the way that we live our life.**
 - **We need to learn to depend on the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to fulfil God’s best plan for our life**
 - **What God has planned for our life is greater than what we could achieve in our own strength**
 - **Often the weaker we feel the more we see God’s power operating in and through our life.**
 - **It is often only when we get to the end of our own ability and strength that we experience the supernatural power and strength of God operating in our own lives**

- **We can as believers depend upon God's enabling power to achieve all those things that He puts on our heart to do**

This is why the Apostle Peter wrote,

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 4:11)

4) God will continually give us wisdom to do life well if we simply continually involve Him in all of our plans

- **God knows what is best for us in every area of our life**

In the book of James we read, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:5-8)

- **God's ways are higher than our ways**

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

- **We need to continually depend on the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit who will tell us things to come and give us wisdom to make right choices in life**

Jesus Himself said, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

- **God has also given us His word (the bible) to give us wisdom to do life well**

The Psalmist wrote, “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.” **(Psalm 119:97-98)**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” **(Psalm 119:105)**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

5) We receive help from God when we walk in relationship with Him

(God knows how to meet our every need in life)

King David wrote, “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.” (Psalm 37:25)

- **We have a God who promises to answer ALL of our prayers (in His timing) that are in line with His will for our life. This is a great promise for ALL believers**

The Apostle John wrote,

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

- **God is always available to help us in time of need. We need to simply ASK for His help**

The Psalmist wrote, “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.” (Psalm 46:1-2)

- **Prayer involves God in our struggles and changes things. Nothing is impossible with God**

Jesus Himself said, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” (Mark 11:22-24)

- **Jesus also made it clear that when we put Him and the things of the Kingdom first in our life, all that we need in life shall be added to us**

Jesus Himself said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

6) That we can enjoy continual peace in our hearts and minds, EVEN during the storms of life

- **As long as we keep our focus on Christ and on the bigness and faithfulness of our God, we can experience ONGOING peace in our lives, irrespective of our current temporary circumstances**

Jesus Himself said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” **(John 14:27)**
“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” **(John 16:33)**

- **If we do not allow our trials and challenges to take our focus off the bigness of our God and all of His promises in His word, we can maintain our peace at all times**

In the book of Isaiah we read, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” **(Isaiah 26:3-4)**

- **Learning to involve God in all of our struggles helps us to maintain the peace that we can all enjoy IN Christ**

The Apostle Peter wrote, “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” **(1 Peter 5:7)**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 4:6-7)**

- **One of the greatest blessings that we can enjoy as Christians is God’s peace in our lives**

7) The joy of the Lord gives us the strength that we need to overcome the storms of life that we will all experience and helps us to maintain a sweet spirit

- **Spending time in God's presence helps to fill our heart with fullness of joy**

King David wrote, "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (**Psalm 16:11**)

In the book of Proverbs we read, "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken." (**Proverbs 15:13**)

- **Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit and learning to walk in the Spirit helps us to continually experience the joy of the Lord**

The Apostle Paul wrote, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

- **We must never allow the Devil to steal our joy as Christians. If he can steal our joy he will also steal our strength**

In the book of Nehemiah we read,

" ... Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

For this reason it is important that we learn to rejoice in the Lord at all times and in all situations and circumstances

The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice.”
(Philippians 4:4)**

8) That God has a unique plan for every believer's life that is full of purpose and meaning

- No matter how many past failures that we may have had God has a hope and future for every person the moment they come to Christ**
- So many people live far beneath their God given potential**
- As Christians we have been saved for a unique God given plan and purpose for our lives.**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

- We will never come second putting God first**

- **Jesus Himself said,**
“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
(John 10:10)

- **So many people never fully embrace the fullness of what God has planned for their lives’. God has a unique plan for every believer’s life that is full of purpose and meaning in every season of their life**

- **It is only in fully surrendering our life to Jesus Christ that we begin to embrace the fullness of what God has planned for our life**

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- **True purpose and meaning in life can only be found in Christ and in living for the Kingdom Cause**

- **God has so much in store for every believer’s life. We must simply let the Lord lead**

The LORD said to the prophet Jeremiah,

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”
(Jeremiah 33:3)

- **God is never limited by our ability, just our availability to do His will for our life**

AND

9) We have the wonderful promise of eternal life

Jesus Himself said,

“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.” **(John 3:16)**

- **Death no longer has any sting for those who are in Christ**
- **For believers to be absent from the body is to be with Jesus**

Jesus Himself said,

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself*; that where I am, there you may be also.” **(John 14:1-3)**

At the time of the now *imminent* rapture of all true believers, both those who have died in Christ and those who are alive and remain will receive their new glorified resurrected body

The Apostle Paul wrote in relation to the rapture of all true believers, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)

- **So no matter what trials we may go through in this life, we have a wonderful eternal future hope as believers. This helps to give us a right perspective in this life when we are encountering temporary trials and setbacks**

This fact was clearly alluded to by the Apostle Paul when he wrote, “*Therefore we do not lose heart.* Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

“For we know that if our earthly ^[a]house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our ^[b]habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as ^[c]a guarantee.” (2 Corinthians 5:1-5)

The Apostle Paul also wrote in relation to our future glorified resurrected body that we will all have as believers,

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” (1 Corinthians 15:50-54)

“O^[a] Death, where *is* your sting?
O Hades, where *is* your victory?”

The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

SO IN CONCLUSION:

- **Christianity is all about having a relationship with a loving God who knows what is best for us in every situation**
- **It is not about religion and just doing things out of a sense of religious duty**
- **It is about knowing the love of all loves Jesus Christ and having friendship with God**
- **It is about living a life full of purpose and meaning as we live for the Kingdom Cause**
- **May I encourage you to get to know the Lord as your best friend and to fully trust Him in the days to come! You can depend on God's faithfulness**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

- **King David was Israel's greatest King and greatly blessed by God**
- **His greatest desire however was to know God intimately. I will finish with the words of King David**

In Psalm 63 King David wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.” **(Psalm 63:1-3)**