



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 6 Number 44

November 4, 2018

Gaining by losing OR Losing by Gaining?!?!

By William Sexton

Mt 10:39, He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Jn 12:25, He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

As we look at what is said about the value of the soul of man, it is so much more important to protect the souls, the spiritual man, than to preserve the physical body, one's life here on earth. Yet we are all tempted to place the physical provisions and protection above every other thing.

Perhaps none of us can afford to brag or boast about how brave we are and would react in the face of opposition when we would be given the choice of denying Christ and living or confessing Him and die. However, I trust that each of us can see that it would be much more profitable eternally to confess Christ and die than to deny Him and preserve our physical life for a short while.

I can and do pray that I will never really have to face that type of opposition, and yet there is a sense in which each of us face decision along that line daily. That is we are tempted to do things, spend our time and resources in ways that does not give God, His Son due respect and commitment.

Let us see from the teachings of these verses that the soul is more valuable and thus deserves more concern than the physical life or any materials in this life. However, God does expect us to respect human life, and not do anything to destroy it. But the spiritual outweighs the physical. So, we ask the question, are we willing to lose the lesser things in order to gain the more important things?

We do make choices each day, do we not? What is involved in those choices is the matter I am trying to address. I'm sure we are all tempted, as was the lord Jesus (Cf. Matt. 4:4-11). Are we likely to give in to achieve the lesser, more immediate satisfying things, than we are to resist the appeals? It appears to me that it is worth our time and effort, to carefully give attention to see that we are NOT trading Eternal valuables for present pleasure.

This life is short, in comparison to eternity, even if we live what is considered to be a "long life." Yes, we should not take the treatment in this life lightly, and sure we do not appreciate suffering. Yet, regardless of the road we choose to travel, there are going to be some unpleasant things that we have to deal with. I trust we learned early in life that the easiest way, at much of the time, is NOT the one that has the most desirable results.

Let us be convinced by the scriptures, as well as by careful observation over a period of time, that choosing the HIGH ROAD, doing right according to the scriptures, is the best way in the long range. Let us picture in our minds the pleasant condition that are described in the scriptures of heaven as they are compared to the view of eternal punishment that is waiting for the devil and those who allow him to rule in their short lives here on the earth (Cf. Mt. 25:31-46; Rev. 21:4-8).

So we repeat the question: What are we gaining and losing? Are we choosing eternal life or eternal torment? Much of the times the choices are rather easy, but then there are times when the choices are difficult, meaning there is immediate pain associated in making the right choice. Yet, the wise person will see the long range, BIG PICTURE, and understand that the better of the choices is the desirable results that are assured by pleasing God.

Yes, we each, are required to make choices daily, to lose the lesser valuables to gain the eternal valuables, or the reverse. Let each of

us be conscious of the fact that the choices are there, and God tells us which one to choose!

Beloved, I choose to suffer hardship for a while that I might enjoy heaven for eternity. May God give me the strength to endure. What about you?

The Best Bible

By Bill Sexton

I hear that someone wrote or said something to the effect that: a Bible sitting on a mantel or in the hallway etc is good. However the best Bible of all is the one that fits in your hands and has your eyes focused on it, when you make it the guide book for your whole life.

That is an interesting idea: What good does a bible just lying on the shelf, or on display to be seen do, really? Oh, well it may provoke one to read, consider, etc. It is a lot better than having some pornography laying on display. However, unless the Bible is read, understood, put into practice, it has little or no practical value

Beloved, I'd like to THINK that we all will take advantage of the opportunity to read the Bible MORE in the future than we have in the past. There are schedules to read so that one can read the bible through in a certain period of time. I have done that a number of times. Yet, there is a need to STUDY, carefully rather than just reading.

What is your view of the Bible? What is your intention for the future in studying and use, application of the contents? Is it your view that you know enough and that Bible study is just a matter of not to much importance now? I hope that is not your view. Bible study should be a lifelong endeavor, but then an application of it absolutely essential for your eternal wellbeing. I am determined to go to heaven, by taking advantage of God's grace and mercy set forth in the New Testament, and I'd strongly urge you to make that same determination. Noting is more important.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tonight night 6:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism
- Our monthly business meeting is scheduled after services this morning.

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Ben Palmer Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Ben Palmer Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – Ben Palmer Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



[www.facebook.com @blackfootchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blackfootchurch)
www.blackfootchurch.com