

GIVING UP RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Everything Belongs to God

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell therein. -Psalm 24:1

It is foolishness to hold onto anything because it is His Anyway

They call their lands after their own names...this is the way of the foolish.

"Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever,

Their dwelling places to all generations;

They call their lands after their own names.

Nevertheless, man, though in honor, does not remain;

He is like the beasts that perish.

This is the way of those who are foolish,

And of their posterity who approve their sayings." -Psalm 49:11-13

KNOW that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves...

"Know that the LORD, He is God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." Psalm 100:3

Yes, We Belong to God

You are not your own; you are bought with a price (precious price)

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor 6:19-20

Our old life is gone - we now live through Christ - Gal 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Therefore - Put God First in Your Life

In all things, give God the preeminence

“giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, THAT (because all things were created for Him) in all things He may have the preeminence.” - Col 1:12-18

Should We Have Any Rights to Anything in This World

Count all things of this life as rubbish to gain Christ

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss (harmful, worthless) for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss (harmful) for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss (the injury of losing) of all things, and count them as rubbish (dung), that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith” - Phil 3:7-9

Our Treasure is in Heaven

Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. - Mark 10:17-22

Easier for a camel...

Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Mark 10:23-25.

The Righteous Are Willing to Give Up Everything to Gain Christ

*speaks of one who covets greedily, but the righteous gives and does not spare (does not hold back)
Prov 21:26*

You shall have no other gods before Me - the first commandment! - Ex 20:3

Quickly Drop Everything in the World to Gain Christ

There is no one who has left anything who shall not inherit a hundred fold in this time, and in the ages to come.

“So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30.

Let a man deny himself :

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? -Matt 16:24-26.

Lay Up Treasure in Heaven - God Wants Your Heart

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal (what you can expect for earthly gains), but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. -Matt 16:24-26

The Kingdom of Heaven is Worth It All

As we release everything in this world, we will begin to realize the joy of heaven.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” - Matt 13:44-46

“For the kingdom of God...is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” -Rom 14:17

Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable (that words cannot express) and full of glory (a joy that has in it a hint of - a taste of - the glories of heaven) -1 Peter 1:8

LET IT ALL GO

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles us. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” Heb 12:1-2

TRY ME NOW

“And try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10

OH, TASTE AND SEE (experience) THAT THE LORD IS GOOD

Psalm 34:8