

# BENEFITS OF CHRISTIANITY

## 1 Timothy 6:2

### INTRODUCTION:

We've tried to be very specific in setting forth "goals" and "methods" of learning, and how to better prepare ourselves to BE everything the Lord wants of us, both in principle and in fact! We're also aware that millions of dollars are spent in the US annually by people trying to better prepare themselves to do a good job ... or to get more motivated in the doing of it ... or in learning how to handle the success that comes from a job well done!

Many lessons have also brought these perceptions over into the religious realm to help us better serve the Lord. **THE ONE THING that GETS/KEEPS people active in ANY endeavor is the BENEFIT that's derived from it ... and this applies in EVERY realm!**

- a) Why go through anaesthesia & an operation except for the BENEFITS desired?
- b) Why lift weights/ why jog/ why diet -- except for the BENEFITS?
- c) Why risk your hard earned money except for the BENEFITS that an investment brings?

**TEXT:** *"And let those who have believers as their masters not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but let them serve them all the more, BECAUSE THOSE WHO PARTAKE OF THE BENEFIT are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles."*

### I. THERE ARE BENEFITS IN OBEYING THE GOSPEL OF J.C.

- A. There are hundreds of "*so-called-religious-plans*" that promise salvation, or redemption, or karma ... and each of them demands a CERTAIN CRITERIA OF COMPLIANCE!
  1. F.O. -- Mourner's Bench -- Hand on Radio -- Experience of Grace -- etc.
  2. Each is only as valid, or potent, as the authority behind it!
  3. HOW can we know the TRUTH?
    - a) Can each person decide for himself? That would be the ultimate CONFUSION!
    - b) Would you let ME decide for EVERYONE?
    - c) Or, can we all agree to just let GOD tell us? 2 Pet.1:3-"*seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*" 2 Tim.3:16-17.
- B. Jesus Christ is the ONLY ONE with heavenly authority to set forth an adequate plan for our salvation! Matt.28:18; Eph.5:21-23; Jno.6:44-45; Rom.10:17.
  1. B+R+C+B. It is "*FOR*" [eis] the REMISSION OF SINS [Acts 2:38] and "*INTO*" the body of Christ - 1 Cor.12:13.
  2. The PURPOSE of the action reveals the BENEFIT that's desired: Salvation in Christ!
    - a) And there's absolutely NO OTHER WAY to receive that BENEFIT! Jno.14:6.
    - b) ANY alteration or substitute nullifies! Jno.10:1; Matt.7:21.
  3. Another incumbent BENEFIT: A right relationship with God and all His holy people! Acts 2:38; 1 Jno.1:3, 7; Gal.4:6-"*And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!*"
  4. PLUS the accrual benefit of being a part of the Body of Christ/ the Kingdom/ His Church!

### II. THERE ARE BENEFITS IN RIGHTEOUSLY LIVING FOR CHRIST!

- A. EVERYONE lives by SOME standard of right and wrong!
  1. There are SOME things that a person, ANY PERSON, just won't do [everyone doesn't draw the line against the same actions!]

2. But whatever it is that determines one's actions, whether **FROM ONE'S ENVIRONMENT**, or **SOCIETAL LAW**, or **RELIGION**, or **WHATEVER**, that's their *MEASURE* or *STANDARD*!
- B. Jesus Christ **SETS THE STANDARD** by which His adherents are to live! **Matt.28:19;**  
**Col.3:17; Jas.4:17; 1 Pet.4:11; Phil.3:16**- "*Whereunto we have attained, by that same rule let us walk!*"
  1. And again, any alteration or substitution will nullify the benefits!
  2. Living for Christ involves us as PARENTS/ as MATES/ as WORKERS/ as FRIENDS/ and as just GOOD EXAMPLE SETTERS! **Matt.5:16.**
    - a) Good examples in our attendance, & attitude, & teaching, & worship!
    - b) "**Everyone Teach One**" is at first embarrassing when we **HAVE TO MAKE DRASTIC CHANGES** in order to talk with others about Jesus Christ!
- C. The benefits we derive from righteous living affect us both **HERE** and **HEREAFTER**!
  1. There's a great deal more respect and honor from our partnership with the Lord!
  2. There's more happiness, and joy, and peace of mind from **knowing whose we are!**
  3. There's more compatibility with family & friends because of better perspectives!
  4. **HEAVEN!**

### **III. SOMETIMES, A BENEFIT IS NOT WORTH THE PRICE IT COSTS!**

- A. i.e.- Becoming a piano virtuoso/ excelling at a sport/ being skinny, et al.
- B. **SCHOOLING**, such as becoming a doctor with a specialty, or a corporate attorney, etc.
- C. For over 3/4's of the people on earth, that's seemingly the way Christianity is to them!
  1. **IS THAT** how the way of Christ is for **SOME OF US**, sometimes?
    - a) Is the cost too great? Does it cost too much in *time*, or *money*, or *effort*?
    - b) Do we try to **EXCUSE OURSELVES** from total commitment to Christ?
    - c) Please understand, we don't have to be "**atheists**" in order to ***not pay the full price needed!***
  2. Jesus Christ already **DIED FOR US** ... **shouldn't we really be trying to live for Him?**

### **CONCLUSION:**

What's worth more to us that our everlasting souls? **IT'S WHATEVER** we might allow to come before our obedience to Christ! **WHO'S REALLY FIRST IN OUR LIVES?**