

"Godly Gains"

Text: Mark 8:36

Intro:

- ➔ Our verse asks a question in regards to gaining.
- ➔ The answer to God's question is NOTHING.
- ➔ Man profits nothing if he gains the whole world and loses his soul -
 - And ends up in burning in hell for time and eternity!
- ➔ But that is exactly what man spends a lifetime doing trying to gain the whole world.
- ➔ The Bible tells us in **Isa. 55:8** - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD."
- ➔ What God says about gaining in His Word is entirely different than what man believes it should be.
- ➔ We are going to look at in the Word of God some, "**Godly Gains**."

I. **Wisdom & Understanding**

- ➔ **See Proverbs 3:13-14**
 - "findeth wisdom"
 - "getteth understanding"
- ➔ The Word of God tells us that this gain is better than silver and fine gold.
- ➔ The Word of god is not talking about worldly wisdom and understanding but godly.

- ➔ **James 1:5** - tells us God's source of wisdom - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."
- ➔ Man's idea on gaining wisdom & understanding would be don't believe God but get an education.
 - Go to Harvard University, etc.
- ➔ This is exactly what Satan told Eve in the Garden.
- ➔ **See Gen. 3:4-5.**
 - v.4 - "Ye shall not surely die" - Don't believe God, he did not really mean what He said.
 - God just wants to keep you stupid because and keep you from being as smart as He is.
 - v. 5 - "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."
- ➔ The Word of God tells us to gain wisdom & understanding, that you don't have to go Harvard or M.I.T. because godly wisdom and understanding is free.
- ➔ **See Job 28:28** - "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."
 - The Word of God tells us to gain or obtain "wisdom" then "fear the Lord"

- Fear of the Lord means to be afraid of what the Lord will do if you sin against Him.
 - I believe many of us would not do what we do if we really had fear of the Lord.
- The Word of God tells us to gain or obtain understanding then simply "depart from evil".
- ➔ Illustration - Man in the Bible that had great wisdom and understanding.
- Joseph the son of Jacob.
 - When tempted by Potiphar's wife to lie with her, Joseph said in **Gen. 39:9** - "There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: **how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**"
 - He had wisdom, fear of God.
 - He saw the sin of adultery of as great wickedness against God.
 - Joseph also possessed great understanding.
 - Notice **Gen. 39:12** - "And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and **fled, and got him out.**"
 - Joseph departed from evil - "he fled and got him out"
- ➔ My dear friend if you want to gain wisdom then - "fear the Lord"
- ➔ You want to gain understanding then "depart from evil"

→ Wisdom and Understanding according to the Word of God are "godly gains."

II. Souls

→ **See I Corinthians 9:19-2**

- v. 19 - "that I might gain the more"
- "Gain the more" - What?
- Money, possessions, sexual conquests, accolades from man, trophies, awards, etc.
- No! - **Gain** more **souls**!
- The Bible says, "**he that winneth souls is wise**"

→ How do we do this?

- The Apostle Paul, made himself a servant, humble, clean, separated vessel, that the power of God could flow through.
- **Romans 1:16**, tells us that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.
- The reason people witness, preachers preach and nobody gets saved is because sometimes the vessel is not clean.
- Therefore the power of God cannot work through a dirty vessel.
- Another godly gain would be to win souls to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Not to gain more worldly power, position, or prestige.

III. Death

→ **See Philippians 1:21-23**

- Paul said in v. 23, "to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:"
- ➔ **2 Cor. 5:8** - "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."
 - Notice Paul says, "we are confident"
 - In other words, he knew for sure if he were to die that he would be with the Lord.
- ➔ As Christians we **gain** when we die because we go to be with the Lord.
 - When a Christian dies it is a promotion.
 - He lives this sin sick world and goes home to glory!!!
 - The Bible tells us in **Psalm 116:15** - "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."
- ➔ When we leave this earth we go to the place that Jesus spoke about in **John 14:1-3** - "**14:1**: Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. **14:2**: 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. **14:3**: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."
 - Our Father's House
 - Our mansion
 - A place prepared by Jesus.

- A place where Jesus will receive us and will be there forever with Him.

→ The rest of the world sees death as a lost.

- They see it as the end of ones existence.
- But not true according to the Word of God.
- The Bible tells in **Hebrews 9:27** - "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

→ The majority of folks fear death.

- That is why each year billions of dollars are spent on prolonging physical life.

But as long as man has been here (6,000 years not millions of years) he has not been able to stop death.

- For the Christian then **death** is **gain**.

IV. "Godliness With Contentment Is Great Gain"

→ **See 1 Timothy 6:6**

→ The problem with Christians is that we are never contented.

- We have bought into Satan's trap of Madison Avenue Advertising.
- In other words, the notion that your life will not be complete unless you have the latest so and so or such and such.

→ Just like Eve believed Satan's pitch -

- "You need to take of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, to have it all"
- This in spite of God, Himself telling Adam and Eve not to take of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- Eve had everything that she could possible need.
 - She lived in a perfect environment.
 - Perfect weather - never seen clouds or rain.
 - Perfect food - didn't have to work for, no additives, no pesticides, etc.
 - No house to clean.
 - No waiting in long lines at the supermarket.

→ **Philippians 4:11-13**, The Apostle Paul said "**4:11**:Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. **4:12**: I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**4:13**: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

- Paul tells us that happy is the man who is content in any state that he finds himself in as long as he is in fellowship with God.
- The reason being is that his content is not based on material things but in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

→ Paul instructs us in **1 Timothy 6:8** - "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

- The Word of God tells us that food and clothing are the essentials and as long as you have that then you should be content.
- There are no ten Christians in the USA who obey this command.
- You and I are simply to be content with "food and clothing".

- Great gain then is to be living right and pleasing God (godliness) and being content with the food and clothing God has given you.
- Simply put to be content with "food and raiment" with Jesus is great gain.

V. "Gain Thy Brother"

→ **See Matthew 18:15-20.**

→ Matthew 18 - provides us with God's instruction on how to handle problems in the church or church discipline.

- How to resolve conflicts between Christians.
- God is not the author of confusion.
- He likes everything done decently and in order.
- If followed, God's instructions will resolve problems in the church.
- Of course most churches do not follow.
- Often times it is replaced gossip, tale bearing, back biting, and busy boding.
- In other words, Christians allow Satan to use them to destroy the church.

→ The Word of God tells us if another Christian falls but is truly repentant then we are to restore them in the spirit of meekness.

- **See Galatians 6:1** - "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
- If your brother will hear you, then you have gained a brother.

- However, if a Christian will not repent and get right with God then the Bible instructs us in **Matthew 18:17** - "And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."
 - In other words, you are to treat that person as if they are unsaved.
 - As Paul instructed the church at Corinth in **I Corinthians 5**, to turn the man that was committing fornication with his father's wife over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh.
- ➔ But at all times when a problem arises in a church concerning discipline and its members then we should always make an attempt to "**gain thy brother**"
- Don't allow Satan to get you to use anything else except His Word.

Conclusion:

- ➔ We have seen this morning some "**Godly Gains**" or what God considers a gain in the Christian's life.
- **Wisdom & Understanding**
 - **Souls**
 - **Death**
 - **"Godliness With Contentment Is Great Gain"**
 - **Gain Thy Brother**