

Putting First Things First (Reaching the Lost) What Can Being A Christian Do For Me?

Intro: As Christians we are eager to invite others to be a part of what we do here; but they may not always understand why we are so eager to get them in church and actively involved in studying and obeying God's word. They may not even be aware of what God and His word can do in their lives. They may even consider Christianity irrelevant to this present life.

But the truth is, the Bible and its teachings are always relevant to our lives. This is because:

We are spiritual beings and the Bible addresses the needs of our inner nature and shows us how to fulfill them.

Most of our problems are chiefly spiritual in nature; and the Bible offers us solutions to the spiritual problems we face, and safeguards that keep us from experiencing these problems.

So it is always relevant to ask the question, "What Can Being A Christian Do for Me?"

Remove the condemnation of your sins, and give you a peace that passes all understanding.

If a person is not a Christian he/she may not aware of the grave danger in which they find themselves because of their personal sin.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Rom. 3:23)

Our sin leaves us in a state of condemnation to eternal death.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)

But the good news is that Jesus has made it possible for us to escape the eternal wrath of God through faith in His sacrifice for us.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. (Rom. 5:8-9)

Consequently through faith in Him we can be forgiven of sin and saved from the wrath to come.

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom. 5:1)

So then, becoming a Christian through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism brings us into a state of forgiveness and gives us a peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:9).

What can being a Christian do for me? It can:

Guide you into a blessed life.

The first recorded message of Jesus in the NT stresses what the gospel can do for those who accept it and live by it. He begins by describing a series of

attitudes that Christians have and the results that those attitudes bring. For example...

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. (Mt. 5:3-6)

What Jesus is doing in these verses is affirming the life-changing impact of following kingdom values. Each attitude in this section begins with the same word--"blessed." The word Jesus uses suggests the full joy that comes from being in God's favor. He shows us that personal happiness does not result from how much we achieve in life, how much money we attain, how popular we have become, but in our character and in our relationship to God.

Being a Christian can set you on the path that leads to maximum joy and blessing.

What can being a Christian do for me? It can:

Free you from every enslaving and life-destroying habit

People often do not realize the great power that sin has to enslave and destroy their lives. Jesus put it this way:

Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. (Jn. 8:34)

Sin can not only be terribly addictive; it is also terribly destructive. God's word anticipates and forbids those behaviors that lead to addiction and destruction.

For example, the Scriptures warn of the consequences of "drunkenness." But most people who are lured into this sin do not realize at first the power that addiction to alcohol can have on their lives or the destruction that it can bring to themselves and others. All they may see initially is the social enjoyment of "adult beverages among other adults." What could possibly be wrong with that? Yet what is the "finished product of the brewer's art"? A drunken driver on the highway that takes the life of husband or mother from their children, a drunken father who comes home to abuse his children; a broken marriage; a lost job. These are the destructive consequences of sin. What the commercial promises and what you get are not the same!

And it is here that we come to appreciate the power of Jesus' claims:

"If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Jn. 8:31-32)

The word of God can help you avoid those behaviors that bring addiction and destruction; and it can provide the motivation and power to escape them as it has done for multitudes of people.

What can being a Christian do for me? It can:

Give you strength to endure any and every blow that comes your way
When we least expect, life strikes us with cruel blows we could not have anticipated. How can a person deal with these things?
To the Christian God has promised His presence with us no matter what life brings:
for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"
(Heb. 13:5)
He has promised that His power will work in our lives to help us overcome whatever obstacles we face. So that we no longer have to say, "I just can't bear up any longer;" but instead...
I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:13)
What can being a Christian do for me? It can:

Mend your broken heart in time of sorrow
Through the gospel, those who sorrow can find comfort in His promise of the resurrection and eternal life. Jesus consoled his broken-hearted friends Martha and Mary with this promise:
"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (Jn. 11:25-26)
"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. (Jn. 6:44)
We cannot forestall death; but if we are Christians we have an advantage. We can "sorrow not as those who have no hope" (1 Thes. 4:14). We have the comfort of God's love; and we have the hope of being with those we love again.
What can being a Christian do for me? It can:

Give you a hope that looks beyond this life to a land of indescribable glory
What if this world is all that there is then has not this life has been utter vanity just as the writer of Ecclesiastes said?
But if there is a God and His gospel is true and we are his, then we have a hope that gives life meaning and keeps us looking forward:
For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)
The vanity of this world will give way to the glory of the world to come. Consequently we have a living hope!
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Conclusion: And so being a Christian has value both in this life and the life to come. Consequently, to fail to pay attention to the teaching of the word of God is

to make the greatest of life's mistakes. William Henry Green put it this way, "The question, therefore, is one of life or death. We will not, we cannot give up our faith in the Bible. To do so is to surrender ourselves to blank despair. It is to blot out the sun from the heavens and extinguish at once the very source of light and life and holiness."

Indeed! Yet all too often we do not realize until it is too late what we have lost in failing to become a Christian and live according to the teaching of the word of God.

All these things are available to you through the gospel.

You can see it in the life of someone who has been a true believer!

You can test it for yourself and learn it is true from experience. Will you step out today and test these promises of God?