

“FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED?”

INTRODUCTION

In the recent congressional hearings to determine the nomination of Judge Bret Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States, Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana brought up Matt. 16:26 for consideration, which reads: *“For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* Our lesson today comes from the first 6 words of this verse, as we ask the question “For what is a man profited?” regarding the Bible, as the word of God.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, For what is an atheist profited IF THERE IS NO GOD?

- A. The Bible, the oldest and most powerful Book in the world, says there **is** a God in heaven.
1. He is the eternal God, who is the obvious Creator of heaven and earth. Gen. 1:1; Exo. 20:11
 2. Only the existence of a great and wise and powerful Being could account for the existence of the universe, with the sun, moon, and millions of stars in the sky. Rom. 1:20; Psa. 14:1
- B. The most noted atheist of the last 100 years was Dr. Antony Flew of England.
1. He argued against God’s existence for many years.
 2. But, with the discovery of DNA several years ago, he changed his mind and began arguing FOR God’s existence.
 3. He wrote a book entitled, “THERE IS NO GOD,” but put a red line across the word “NO”, and put an “A” above it, making it read, “THERE IS A GOD.”
 4. Dr. Flew never acknowledged the **identity** of THAT God as being the God of the Bible, but contended that there absolutely HAS to be some God, for the design of the universe and the human body there **has** to be A DESIGNER.
- C. IF the Bible is right, all atheists and unbelievers will be LOST for rejecting God. Heb. 11:6
1. If there is no God, man will not live into eternity, and atheists will never be able to boast about being right, so there is NO profit for them by being unbelievers.
 2. On the other hand, if there IS a God, there IS profit for those who believe in God and obey His commandments.

II. 2nd, what profit is there in believing MAN HAS NO SOUL?

- A. The Bible says there IS an intelligent, eternal soul (or spirit) in every human being that shall exist forever and ever. Job 3 2:8; Heb. 12:9
1. Jesus confirmed the soul’s existence that man CAN “lose his soul,” and if it IS lost, there is nothing IN or ALL the world itself, that can redeem it if it is lost.
 - a. All the millions of dollars that Warren Buffet possesses cannot redeem a soul.
 - b. All the millions that Bill Gates possesses along with Buffet’s riches, cannot save a single soul, much less all the souls of the world.
 2. The soul or inner man is conscious in a realm called “hades” from the time of death, and will either be LOST or SAVED—depending on response to the teachings of the Bible.
- B. IF there is NO soul in man, what “profit” is there for NOT believing and obeying God?

1. If man has NO soul, and will he will cease to exist with his dying breath, what does he LOSE by believing in the existence of a soul?
2. On the other hand, if one doesn't believe that man has a soul, he cannot boast about his claim in eternity, for neither he or any of us will even exist.
3. So, the only safe and right thing to do is to recognize man has a soul, and prepare for it's eternal existence. Matt. 16:26; Jas. 5:19-20

III. 3Rd, what profit is there in NOT believing God's plan of salvation?

- A. Jesus, the Son of God, revealed the plan that God gave for saving the soul.
 1. He revealed that Christ, His Son, had to die—shedding His blood for man's redemption. Acts 2:23-24; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22
 2. That blood is contacted by by faith that leads one to repent and be immersed in water to receive the forgiveness of sins. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 40- 41
- B. IF this plan is exact and one would be lost for rejecting or perverting it, what does such a person GAIN by doing such?
 1. If one is right for rejecting GOD'S plan, and can be saved otherwise (by faith only or the sinner's prayer or some other method), then most people will be saved whether obeying God or not.
 2. On the other hand, if one is lost for rejecting God's plan, he will be lost eternally, and cannot be saved any other way. Mark 16;15-16; Rom. 1:16; John 12:48

IV. 4th, what profit is there in REJECTING the ONE church of the Bible?

- A. Jesus said and taught through the scripture, that there is ONLY ONE church that meets His approval. Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13
 1. The church is the bride of Christ, and He doesn't have more than one bride. 1 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32 (Discuss fully)
 2. The whole ONE church is made up of many congregations, which believe and teach the same thing. 1 Cor. 1:10
- B. Now, what profit is there in NOT believing what the Bible teaches about the one church?
 1. If one is right in believing that OTHER religious bodies are okay, it will still INCLUDE those who are IN that ONE body or church, so he gains nothing or profits nothing by his position.
 2. On the other hand, if he is wrong and the Bible is right, he has lost his own soul and never boast about having been right, and can not repent of it after death to then get INTO the Lord's church.

CONCLUSION

- I. Are you going to risk your eternity on the hopes that the Bible is wrong?
 - A. If the Bible is right, one will be lost for rejecting it.
 1. Why not believe in God's existence?
 2. Why not believe man has an eternal soul?
 3. Why not believe in God's plan of redemption?
 4. Why not believe in the One church revealed in the Bible?
 - B. If the Bible is wrong, there will be no reason to boast, and no profit in rejecting it.
- II. What about YOU?