

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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“What’s In It For Me?”

The title of this article is a question that many often ask before they commit themselves to something. Sadly, many today, are self-centered and selfish. Therefore, many, before making any kind of commitment to something will typically ask, “What’s in it for me?” I even recently heard about one asking this question when they were approached about obeying the gospel of Christ, and that got me to thinking about the many benefits that one can receive when they obey the gospel of Christ.

You Can Have Your Sins Washed Away.

In Romans 3:23, we learn, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” We go on to be informed in Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death.” You see, sin separates one from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). However, when one obeys the gospel of Christ, they will have their sins washed away (Acts 22:16), and they will be reconciled to God (Romans 5:6-11).

You Can Have Every Spiritual Blessing In Christ.

The apostle Paul, while writing to the faithful in Christ, declared “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). Did you notice where every spiritual blessing is found? Every spiritual blessing is only found “in Christ.” Therefore, you must be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27) before you can obtain every spiritual blessing in Christ.

You Can Have A Peace That This World Cannot Give.

Many today search for and long for peace, but did you know that true peace can only be found in Christ Jesus? In John 14:27, Jesus told His chosen disciples, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” Jesus went on to tell them, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Think about that when you consider the question of “what’s in it for me?”

You Can Have The Privilege of Being Called A Child of God.

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God” (1 John 3:1)! My friend, there is no greater privilege than the privilege to be called a child of God. However, one only receives this privilege and the benefits that come with it, when they obey the gospel of Christ (John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26-29).

You Can Have The Hope of Eternal Life.

Do you desire to obtain eternal life in heaven? Well, by obeying the gospel of Christ one receives the hope of eternal life (Titus 1:2). Now, it is important to note that this hope of eternal life that comes with obeying the gospel of Christ is not wishful thinking, but rather it is a desire coupled with an expectation, and those who obey the gospel of Christ and remain faithful to the Lord can know that they have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

My friend, when you consider the question of “What’s in it for me?” Along with these few benefits that you can have by obeying the gospel of Christ, it should not only cause you to want to obey the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10), but it should likewise cause you to be determined to remain faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10)!

✍️ Brad Phillips

"Except . . . Ye Cannot Be Saved"

The foregoing title is from Acts 27:31. The context makes reference to physical salvation from a storm at sea. Those who remained in the ship would be saved. And those that tried to abandon ship would be lost. Throughout the centuries God has always provided for man's well being.

1. Many will remember that in Genesis 6, 7, God commanded Noah and his family to get into the Ark to assure their salvation from the flood. Everyone in the Ark was saved and everyone outside the Ark was lost.

2. Then, in Exodus 12, God explained to Moses that he was going to destroy the first born of every family that was not inside a house that had the blood of a lamb brushed around the door. So, once again, God determined that salvation would be granted to the obedient that stayed in the designated place of safety. All the firstborn in the houses were saved and all the firstborn outside the specially prepared houses would die.

3. Still later, when the Jews entered the promised land, God established "cities of refuge." These cities to which a person who had accidentally killed someone could flee to save themselves from becoming victims of the law which allowed "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." God was quite explicit. The objects of vengeance would be safe only so long as they remained in the city. If they ventured out of the city during a prescribed period of time, they could be killed. Those in the city were safe; those out of the city could be destroyed.

4. Then when Jesus came to earth, God made a far greater provision for mankind. This had to do with the salvation of souls! In Ephesians 1:3, Paul explains that God has determined that all spiritual blessings are in Christ. In Galatians 3:27 and Romans 6:3 we learn that to get into Christ one must be baptized into Christ. The Scripture also teaches that one must live faithful to remain in Christ (1 John 1; Rev. 2:10; Matt. 10:22). Hence, those that die in Christ will be saved, but those who die out of Christ will be lost (Rev. 14:13; Rev. 21:8).

This is most serious! Are you in or out of God's provided place of safety?

✍️ Raymond E. Harris

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816