

# Losses and Gains

I. Things we may obtain  
by rejecting the gospel

# Earthly riches

Rich young ruler, Mt.19

- Consumed with now

Busy people, Mt.22:1-5

- Consumed with self

Honest Christian, Mt.6:19-21

- Resists worldliness
- Gives as prospered
- Consumed with heavenly treasure

# Sensual indulgences

- Gen.3: the first worldly gain:
  - Chose sensual pleasure over will of God
  - Lust of flesh...eyes...pride of life (verse 6)
- Mt.5:27-29: adultery
- Mt.5:38-42: revenge
- Christian's choices of activities are limited.  
Gal.5:19-24

## Worldly honor and praise

- Herod, acquainted with angels (Ac.12:20-22)
  - Angel leads Peter out of prison, 7-11
  - Saints mistake Peter for an angel, 15
  - Angel smote Herod at peak of his honor and power, 21-23
- Some would not let lowly Jesus reign over them; they want a vain boaster (Herod)
- Herod, eaten by worms; word of God grows. (cf. Mt.2:20)
- Herod follows James into death / hades...

# Worldly honor and praise

- Christians are ridiculed for their steadfastness to the gospel –
  - Plan of salvation, Mk.16:16
  - Loyal worship, Jn.4:24
  - Teaching the lost, 2 Tim.2:2
  - Faithfulness, Rv.2:10
  - Exposing error, Ep.5:11

I. Things we may obtain by rejecting the gospel

II. How will they lose  
these 'advantages'?

# The lives of evil men provide the answer

- Dn.5, Belshazzar, ignored God . . .
- Mt.27:1-3... Judas



# Worldly will lose every 'advantage' at death

- Lk.12:16-21, rich fool
  - 'So is he who...'

“Death makes the rich man  
poor as the beggar”

# Eternal consequences

- Gal.6:7-8, reaping and sowing
  - Some do not sow. Hb.2:3 (neglect)
  - Some sow bad seed ('wild oats'). Mt.13
  - Some sow good seed but ignore it (reject)
    - Ho.4:6, destroyed for ignorance
    - Mk.7:9, thought they were above minimum
    - Ac.13:46, thought they were defending truth
- Hb.9:27

I. Things we may obtain by rejecting the gospel

II. How will they lose these 'advantages'?

III. The Christian  
gains eternally

## We may suffer in this life

- 2 Tim.3<sup>12</sup> all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
  - Better suffer here than hereafter
- Mt.16<sup>26</sup> ...For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

# Count the cost

1. Whatever we get here is temporary; whatever we lose there is eternal.
2. We can measure the worth of this world; not eternity.
3. To gain the world is to gain an ocean of cares. Solomon – Ecclesiastes (vanity, vexation...)
4. Greatest folly: neglecting the soul...

## All our sacrifices end at death

Ph.1<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup> For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

Ph.3<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

## Lightfoot

“All such things which I used to count up as distinct items with a miserly greed and reckon to my credit – these I have massed together under one general head as loss” – Ph.3:7

## Bruce

though Paul was already in Christ, “his ambition to be found in him on that great day can be realized only if he is continuously and progressively living in union with him during this mortal existence, and to this end Paul gladly jettisons everything else, including his formerly prized righteousness that comes from the law.”