

Keeping Score?



When professing Christians think and live as if there is a trade-off between what the world offers in opposition to blessings of God – that when you choose one you lose the other – they miss the whole point! There is NO commandment, law, request, suggestion, decree, directive, principle . . . of God where we have to give up a lesser, for a greater, good.

- ✿ Satisfying the “itch” of anger and hate through retaliation is never good when God offers the grace of forgiveness.
- ✿ Slaving for money and things can never compete with resting in the free provision of God.
- ✿ Finally getting what a person so desperately wanted does not compare to appreciating and being satisfied with what they have.
- ✿ No one increases love through adultery . . .

List, if you can, a SINGLE benefit the world offers that God in which grace does not offer many time more. What is the benefit of getting drunk? What advantage is there in lying? Who profits from stealing from others? Where has an individual or society gained from giving people the “freedom” to kill unborn children? . . . There is no question:


The World and the devil O

While, we can only touch the “tip of the iceberg” of God’s blessings and the benefits of urgently seeking to find and do what He tells us is best for us!

Only a true and real Christian:

- Can afford to **repent**, because they have hope of Supernatural help to change and improve.
- Has **compassion** for others because, even though they do not excuse sin (a word, like *repent*, that non-Christians detest), Christians understand they have done as bad, or worse, themselves and have only been (or are in the process of being) “saved” (sorry, but a 3rd hot-button word non-Christians hate and ridicule) by the Grace of God.
- Will, for any extended period, be **happy and hopeful** since they can be thankful for what they have received (in spite of not being worthy) with faith that Jesus Christ will continue to bless them – even beyond this short earthly life; non-Christians have no such happiness and hope since they lack the underlying elements of both thankfulness and faith in the future.
- Find **peace and comfort** in an ever-changing and fleeting world – yes, as paradoxical as it sounds, Christians can and should appreciate the world more than those who worship it!
- Experiences freedom – **freedom to** do what they want (since God’s grace is reshaping them to want to do right and reject what is wrong) and **freedom from** fear.

And we could go **on and on and on** with listing the benefits God offers compared to NONE that the world and the devil provide (they promise much, but deliver little). It isn’t even worthy to be called a contest! Who could, if they have half a brain, be ashamed of the gospel? It is far more surprising that non-Christians don’t hide their heads in shame since they have no help and hope to offer themselves or ANYONE! Their system is bankrupt!



No individual or society has benefited or progressed apart from a knowledge and seeking of God – a God-ignorant people offer **NO** hope and give **NO** help.

Yet, in the midst of the temptations and hustle and bustle of the world, we all fall short. Falling short is not the issue – the point is: Are you on this tight-rope of a world **WITH** or **WITHOUT** a safety-net?

Ignorance, in real life, is not bliss! Doctrinal errors have, at their core, a denial of one or more of the blessings of God. In the same way that the devil deceived Adam and Eve, he continues to tempt us to believe God's ways are **NOT** better for us.

Too often we fall for the lie that the “bird” we can hold, control, squeeze . . . is better than the many we only receive by grace through faith.

Maybe the most foolish (even though most common) approach is to think and act as if we can “manage” or “sponsor” both teams – “score” with God and the world at the same time. This is the theme of probably the most pernicious “Christian” teaching – “you can ‘accept’ Jesus Christ as Savior but not as LORD . . . God’s greatest desire is to save you, but if you want to continue living like and for the devil and the world he will love and save you anyway.”

Only the idiot who “played around” before he married, and expects his new wife to fully accept and embrace his continuing to fool around after his marriage, could accept this distortion and perversion!

As Joshua warned:

“Now fear the **LORD** and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the **LORD**. But if serving the **LORD** seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living! But as for me and my household, we will serve the **LORD**.” Jos 24:14 – 15

For as Jesus, Himself, made clear:

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” Mt 6:24

Keeping Score?

It is foolish not to – the stakes are too high to be wrong!

God and Grace 1000+

The World and the devil 0

Who is Keeping Score?

You had better be –

It's your life!

I am keeping score and, for this reason, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . .” ^{Ro 1:16} The **only** power to save – here and for eternity!