
Words of Truth

An Advantage We Have That We Should Use In This Life

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The life of a faithful Christian is certainly rewarding. When this life is over we all realize that we have a great reward awaiting us (Luke 6:23, Colossians 3:24, and I John 5:11). If there were no other benefits to being a Christian, that benefit alone is worth all that we might face in this life (Matthew 5:10-12). That being said, the life of a Christian is advantageous in addition to eternal life.

Time and space would not permit me to list all of the benefits we have in being Christians. In fact, I don't think I could even do justice to the subject if I tried for I would surely miss some things. The fact is, even when the life of the faithful is under distress, we have a peace that the world will never know (Philippians 4:6-7; cf. John 14:27). Godly peace is a blessing in itself, but it is also a testament to how many comforts we share in Christ.

I do not want this article to get us thinking carnally. The benefits we have in Christ are mostly spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). Our lively hope is in the resurrection (I Peter 1:3). While we remain in this world we will find life to be turbulent (John 16:33). Yet, through all we shall face, we have been given one advantage that I want to be sure we all remember to use. That advantage is the wisdom we have over others through our knowledge of the word of God.

Our Advantage Because Of The Scriptures

Notice how the Scriptures give us an advantage because of the wisdom we have through the Scriptures: *"Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me. I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts. The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I will consider thy testimonies. I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad. O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way"* (Psalms 119:92-104).

You cannot separate the fact that when we allow the word of God to work in us we are going to be blessed with wisdom (Colossians 3:16). The Lord's word is a source of wisdom (Deuteronomy 4:6 and Proverbs 2:6). When you consider God's wisdom over man's wisdom (Romans 11:33-36 and I Corinthians 3:19), you realize that the word of God is the supreme source of wisdom.

Seeing these things are so, we need to make the word of God our source for counsel (Psalms 119:24). It is obvious that the word of God is our source for salvation, but we need to remember it is much more than that too (II Timothy 3:15-17). The word of God gives us everything we need that pertains to both life and godliness (II Peter 1:3-4). If we are only using the Scriptures for our spiritual lives we are missing what the Scriptures provide for our physical lives.

When the Lord was preparing the disciples for the hard work ahead of them in His absence, He said this: *"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist"* (Luke 21:15). Now that promise does not DIRECTLY apply to us. It was a miraculous promise based upon the direct working of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles (John 16:13). It does however apply to us indirectly.

The Apostle Paul, who was a beneficiary of the promise of Christ to the Apostles (cf. I Corinthians 7:40 and Galatians 1:10-12), said something we should consider when we are studying the Scriptures. Notice: *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ"* (I Corinthians 2:9-16).

While we may not have the Spirit working directly with us, you should understand how we benefit from His direct work with inspired men after you read the above quoted Scripture. Thus, while not directly, we do indirectly have the mind of Christ available to us through the Scriptures. I have heard people talk of how they'd love to sit with Jesus in Heaven and ask Him questions. My question is, why wait until then? Open up the words of Christ and "pick His brain" now.

The Apostle Paul said this: *"How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)"* (Ephesians 3:3-4). It's time to read, right? Grab that book we call the Bible and start taking advantage of having the mind of Christ available unto you. Get the wisdom God has given us to gain a better life in this world as well as the life to come.

Conclusion

A Psalmist said: *"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple"* (Psalms 119:130). Wisdom and understanding are tied together (Ephesians 5:17). Thus, *"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding"* (Proverbs 4:7).