

What If Jesus Had Never Come?

I cannot imagine trying to make it through life without having “the good shepherd” (John 10:11), who is the “one mediator between God and men” (1 Timothy 2:5) and the “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16) in my corner. But what if Jesus had never come into this world “to give His life a ransom”? (Mark 10:45).

A Life Without True Meaning. Jesus came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Paul said we “can do all things through Christ” (Philippians 4:13). The whole of man is to fear the Lord and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

A Life Without a Totally Reliable Model to Imitate. There are many fine people in this world. Some are worthy of imitation because they demonstrate selfless behavior, pure speech, and a respectful attitude. Yet no mere human is a good example in every way all of the time. Each person makes mistakes. “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23). But not Jesus, who “committed no sin,” and that is why He alone is worthy of complete imitation (1 Peter 2:21-22).

A Life Without Direction. Where am I going in my life? Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Life Without Salvation. The wages of sin is death because sin separates a person from God (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2). Thank God that He loved us so much that He sent Jesus “into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15; Ephesians 1:7). Because Jesus is the only Savior, the only “name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12), without Him we could never enjoy the forgiveness of sins.

A Life Without Hope. People that live without hope are miserable indeed. Jesus is the hope of the world (1 Timothy 1:1). Through Jesus we can live “in hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2).

The choice is ours: we can live life either with Him or without Him. Let us choose wisely, for this choice will determine our eternal destiny. To live with Him, of course, means to live according to His will. Are you doing that?

- Roger Campbell. *Bulletin Digest.com* -

GRACE: God's Redemption At Christ's Expense

News & Notes

COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY about noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Jan. 13th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana Church of Christ.

PANTRY: Spaghetti and sauce.

MALAWI PROJECT: Give voluntary monetary donations to purchase items to make the Birthing Kits to MaClay Toomey. Donate cash or checks made out to the church.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Craig Sayers (Twila Adamson's son), 63 Old Overlook Trail, Hendersonville, NC 28739.

SICK & SHUT-IN: UPMC (ICU), Pittsburgh: Todd Grimes (Cindy Miskimen's nephew) Todd suffered a stroke. **At Home:** Pam Thompson, Docie Moore, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **In Ohio: Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. **Lori Stocks** (Karen Strum's niece), 115 Springbrook Drive, Findlay, OH 45840. Lori is undergoing treatment for lung cancer.

Who Benefits From Your Attendance?

I personally do not understand why some church members only come on Sunday mornings. After all, we worship the same God on Sunday evening as we do on Sunday morning. We study from the same Bible on Wednesday evenings as we do during all other service times. Maybe if those folks could see just who benefits from everyone coming to every service, they would desire to come more often.

Let's take a look at who benefits when members come to every service.

*** God benefits.** We come here to honor and worship Him. The more that we are here, the better our singing of praises to God and the more glory is given to Him. I realize that God doesn't need us, but imagine how disappointed He must be when we decide not to come to a service in His honor.

*** The church benefits.** When we gather together, encouragement and edification takes place. The more that are here, the better the fellowship and the greater the opportunities for showing our love and concern for one another. When we choose not to come, the church suffers.

*** Your family benefits.** Coming to services is a family activity that can always be done together. The more of your family that are here, the better the influence and the closer your family will become. When we opt not to come, our family loses.

*** You benefit.** By bringing yourself, you are putting yourself in a position to increase your spirituality. The more that you are here, the greater the opportunity for you to grow and mature in Christ and find areas of greater service. When you don't come, you are harming yourself.

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb. 10:24-25)

- Edd Sterchi, *Bulletin Gold* -