

Everything to Do With Life: The Benefits of Christ.

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Psalm 103:2–5 ² Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget none of His benefits**; ³ Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; ⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; ⁵ Who satisfies your years with good things, So *that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.

- forgiveness - healing - redemption & grace
- these riches / benefits come from reconciliation - e.g. the prodigal son

John 10:10 > A - *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy*: to take from life; to steal away from life; to take away life; to ultimately destroy life.

John 10:10 > B - *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”* Jesus Christ – the giver of life; seeks to enrich life; seeks to multiply the things which pertain to life.

ABUNDANT LIFE – a full life / a life lived to the fullest

He gives & works by multiplicity.

- Knowledge of God and His Son, Jesus Christ multiplies “Grace and peace.” (2 Peter 1:2)
- The seed of God’s word when received good soil, “Yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.” (Matthew 13:8)

Mark 10:29–30 There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, ³⁰ but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

The Gospel – John 3:16 ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him **shall not perish, but have eternal life.**”

ETERNAL LIFE - a quality of life contrasted with the life that perishes. Man exists eternally. Eternal life is an abundant life which is eternal in nature and to perish is to suffer loss and ruin.

The “Benefit” Of Christ Is Reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18–21

¹⁸ Now all **these things** are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of **reconciliation**. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be **reconciled** to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Reconciliation has everything to do with relationship. “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.” The enmity separating one from God is resolved and reconciliation with God is achieved. The work of Christ makes possible a personal relationship with God, “So that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Spiritual life – eternal life is directly related to God’s presence. God is with us in every experience of our life and in our life eternal.

Now: “We will make our abode with him” Jn. 14:23
Eternity: “God Himself will be among them” Rev 21:3

PRESERVATION OF LIFE

Hebrews 10:39 We are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have **faith to the preserving of the soul.** (The faithful)

The Benefit of the Church (the ministry of the Holy Spirit)

We are “being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” **Ephesians 2:22**

God has provided us with the gift of the church. “God has set in the church” ministries. In the church We are ministered to through the Holy Spirit.

Spiritually Fed

John 21:15–17 Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, do you love Me more than these...Tend My lambs.” He said to him again a second time...do you love Me...Shepherd My sheep.” He said to him the third time...do you love Me...Tend My sheep.”

Divinely Loved

1 John 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

John 13:34–35 ³⁴ “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Matthew 18:17 “If he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Claim to His promises

Ephesians 2:12,19: *Remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world...So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household.

Invest into your relationship with God through the church.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,