



NOTHING WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST

There are many who have the misconception that they are important. The misconception comes from not recognizing that without Jesus Christ as the central point in their lives they are nothing. The rich man and Lazarus shows this point. The rich man thought that he was vital and important. He missed the point that without God he is nothing.

Luke 16:18-31

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good

things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

The rich man's attitude was to throw crumbs to the poor. He thought that he was better than poor Lazarus. The rich man thought that he did not need God, did not need salvation, and had everything that he thought he needed. He had everything that the world had to offer, but when it came to salvation he had none.

When Lazarus entered heaven and the rich man found himself in hell's torment, he realized that he had nothing. All of the gold that he had was worthless. He had nothing in

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the end and he ended up begging for a single drop of water. If he even thought a little about his eternity while in the flesh, he would have realized that he was wanting. In reality, there is more importance in the eternal than in what the world provides. The world provides just what can be seen and felt, while Jesus provides for eternity.

Look at who the world lift up in high esteem. They heap honor upon the rich, wealthy, and powerful while heaping scorn upon the righteous. It is the the righteous who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb who have the true wealth. It is the redeemed who will inherit the riches of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Without the redemption of the Lord Jesus Christ, your inheritance is the same as the rich man. Your inheritance will be the eternal flames of hell where you will be begging for a single drop of water. Jesus Christ gives you an inheritance that lasts for all eternity.

Where is your inheritance? What do you honor? What do you esteem? Do you hold the wealthy, rich, and powerful in high esteem?

James 2:1-7

1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

Even during the Apostolic age the Christian community held the wealthy in high esteem instead of concentrating and considering what is truly important. We need to keep reminding ourselves that without Jesus Christ's saving grace we have and are nothing. Without salvation we are headed for the eternal flames of hell. What can the world give you that lasts for eternity? Will your gold, platinum, jewels, or money be able to rescue you from the eternal fire?

Jesus Christ's redemption is your only hope. Without the Lord's salvation you are and have nothing. Jesus is everything while the world offers things that are of temporary importance.

Look at all of the wicked that the world holds in high esteem. They honor fornicators, adulterers, high minded, murders, liars, and all of the other wicked mentioned in the Bible.

Romans 1:17-32

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it

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unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness,

maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Jesus Christ is the only one who can really make you something. Without Jesus Christ you have no hope and no redemption. In other words, you are nothing except fuel for the flames of hell. If you want to be someone important, remember that only by the blood of Jesus Christ is salvation. Only through Jesus Christ are you made whole. Jesus Christ is what changes you from a wicked sinner into a righteous Christian.

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