

THE TRENTON BULLETIN

What Is The Point Of Life In Christ? (Gary Henry)

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:8-11).

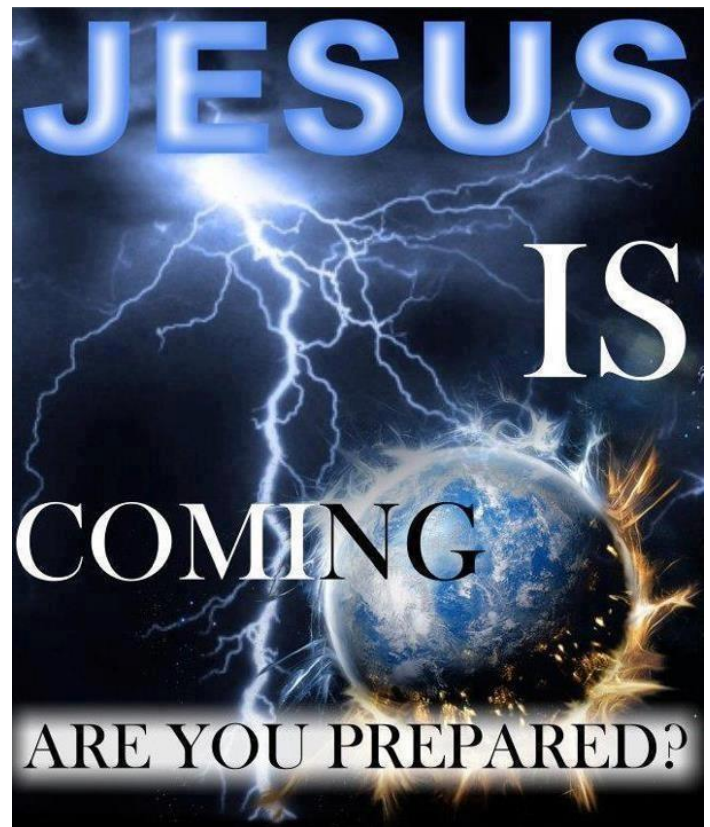
The point of life in Christ is that we may "know Him and the power of His resurrection." The value of knowing Christ so far excels the value of anything in this world that we are willing to suffer the loss of all else, if need be, in order to "gain Christ and be found in Him." Life in Christ is not primarily about relief right now from the trauma of living in a broken world. Indeed, to be in fellowship with Christ means to know "the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death" in order that we may "attain to the resurrection from the dead."

To the ears of the Christian, these truths should sound self-evident. Unfortunately, the concept of Christianity that has come to be dominant in our day is one that runs in a different direction. According to this concept, emotional pain relief is the basic, overall concern of life in Christ. Offering health, wealth, and complete emotional bliss, it promises to take away the deep ache of our needy, broken souls and to do so rather quickly. The new gospel is fundamentally about "feeling better." It is about us.

But the historic gospel is not first and foremost about feeling better; it is about glorifying God through Christ and coming to be like Him. Christ did not die for the mere betterment of our feelings, and seeking God through Him is not mostly about pain relief. It is about character transformation. And even more than

character transformation, it is about the glorification of God. Far from eliminating the possibility of pain, the glorification of God may require the suffering of pain, even to the point of death. Our expectation should be no less than that of Paul, whose only hope was that "with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:20,21).

"Modern Christianity, in dramatic reversal of its biblical form, promises to relieve the pain of living in a fallen world" (Larry Crabb)



It would be wonderful if the Easter crowds thronging to the stores for new garments of the season could get as excited about making sure of new garments on that great "getting-up-morning." (Vance Havner)



Rungs On The Ladder Of Success

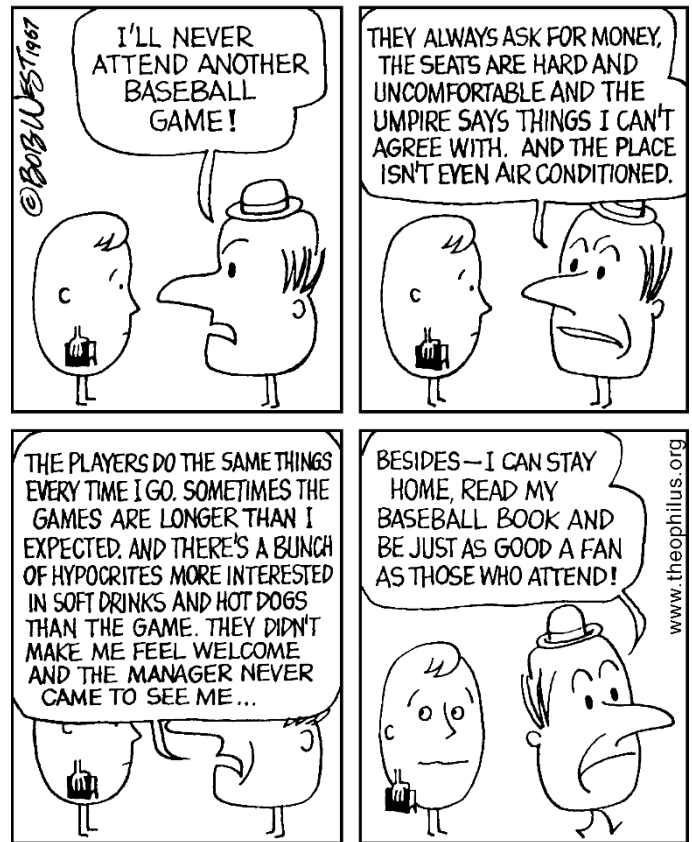
- 100% - I did
- 90% - I will
- 80% - I can
- 70% - I think I can
- 60% - I might
- 50% - I think I might
- 40% - What is it?
- 30% - I wish I could
- 20% - I don't know how
- 10% - I can't
- 0% - I won't

Be Wise Small (Dee Bowman)

- ☞ We're all just parts; nobody's the whole.
- ☞ Truth has only one real aim—application. It is not enough to appreciate and admire it. It really never reaches its intention until it is implemented.
- ☞ My two favorite words in the Bible—"I Press."
- ☞ The measure of a man's faith is very often seen in how he acts when no one is looking.
- ☞ A good man gets respect the old-fashioned way—he earns it.
- ☞ Life is about little people. It's not about the rich and famous; it's about simple folks...who haven't made a big splash in life, nor said anything special, or done anything worthy of public praise or honor.
- ☞ The success of Christianity is not measured by what you get out of it but by what it gets out of you.
- ☞ Preaching that does not storm the will is not good preaching.
- ☞ You should never criticize anyone when you're glad about it, only when you're sad about it.
- ☞ Life's problems tend to make us bitter or better, one of the other.
- ☞ I figure if God wanted us to drink skim milk, He would have made cows drink more water and eat less grass.
- ☞ Responsibility is ability plus opportunity.
- ☞ Application is what preaching is all about.
- ☞ The conscience is that part of a man's intelligence that keeps him in balance regarding his convictions. It enforces moral obligation.

THEOPHILUS

Parable of the Baseball Fan



- ☞ It occurs to me that we must all make an honest self-assessment by asking: (1) Who am I? (2) What am I? (3) Where am I? And (4) What is to be done?
- ☞ You'll never be truly happy if happiness is your goal in life. Happiness is a by-product of being good to others, of being right with God.
- ☞ Anybody can apologize. It takes a man to change.
- ☞ There is little to be gained by running people down; but everybody benefits when you encourage just one person.
- ☞ Bible teaching not only encourages bad people to be become good; it also encourages good people to become better.
- ☞ (Jesus) came to save us all, big and small alike.
- ☞ "If you miss heaven, you've just missed all there is."

