

“WHAT ADVANTAGE IS IT TO ME?”

By Keith Greer

“If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” {1 Corinthians 15:32} Paul wanted to know the advantage of being a Christian, if there is no hope of a resurrection. Let us use this phrase to ask, “**What are the advantages of being a Christian?**” Think on just a few:

All things are new. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* {2 Corinthians 5:17} This verse clearly shows that when one obeys the gospel, his slate is wiped clean—he gets a second chance. *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”* {Colossians 1:13,14}

Family privileges. *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”* {Romans 8:16,17} One becomes an heir with Christ—we receive the promise of an inheritance! We are confident that we can talk with our father in heaven who hears and has the power to answer. *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”* {1 John 5:14} Only His children have the right to communicate with God.

Blessed assurance. *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* {Romans 8:35-39} God’s children have the assurance that, with God’s help, nothing that Satan or life can throw at us can defeat us. How can we lose if God is on our side? {Romans 8:28} Listen to our Savior’s comforting words: *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”* {John 10:27-29}

Contentment. *“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”* {1 Timothy 6:6-8} God’s people can learn to be content and secure with the lives with which they are blessed. Christians understand that all blessings come from God, and without Him we would have nothing. {James 1:17}

Peace of mind. *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* {Romans 5:1,2} This type of peace cannot be purchased

with any amount of money. True peace assures us that if we never rise to see another day, our souls are safe.

True and lasting hope. “...Write: *'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'* Yes, says the Spirit, *that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.*” {Revelation 14:13} Knowing God keeps His promises and one day our hope will become reality in heaven!

Indeed, being in Christ has many advantages. Are you enjoying these advantages in your spiritual life? Why not start today by rendering obedience to His commands? ***