

The Value of Discipleship

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus spoke of the “cost” of being His disciple, emphasizing that following Him must not be taken lightly (**Luke 14:26-33**). While the commitment Jesus demands must be thoughtfully considered, so too must the *value* of following Him. Consider some things Scripture teaches are benefits of following Christ.

II. Fulfillment of Purpose

- A. Like many, the writer of Ecclesiastes sought to find fulfillment and satisfaction through earthly endeavors, possessions, and the like. He learned that looking to these things for that which only God provides is vanity. **Ecclesiastes 1:1; 5:10**
- B. The key to permanent satisfaction and fulfillment of purpose is to center one’s life on God and keeping His commandments. This is what Christ’s true disciples do. **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

III. Glorifying God

- A. Those who center their lives on God and keeping His commands make pleasing and glorifying God their aim and purpose. While glorifying God is a *duty*, it is also a great *blessing* to serve in the Creator’s kingdom. It is wonderful to be able to please the One who’s done so much for us. **1 Corinthians 10:31; Song 189, verse 4**

IV. Helping Others

- A. Christ’s faithful disciples not only are able to glorify God, but are also able to help one another. It is good to help others meet temporal needs, but Christ’s disciples also provide *spiritual* help to others. **Ephesians 4:16**

V. Helper in Trouble

- A. Christ’s disciples not only *provide* spiritual help, but also have the most wonderful *Helper* whose ears are open to their prayers. **Psalm 46:1; 1 Peter 3:12; Revelation 2:9**

VI. Peace That Surpasses Understanding

- A. Part of the value of discipleship that is realized through approaching and trusting our Helper is peace that surpasses all understanding. **Philippians 4:6-7**

VII. Unspeakable Joy

- A. Similarly, those who follow Christ faithfully are able to have unspeakable joy. This joy is far deeper than anything the world can offer, and is accessible through good times and bad. **1 Peter 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:16**

VIII. Hope That Anchors the Soul

- A. Not only are Christ’s disciples able to have peace and joy through trials, but they are able to have a hope that *anchors* them steadfastly through trials. **Hebrews 6:19**

IX. Everlasting Life

- A. The basis for this hope is the knowledge that the righteous will spend eternity in God’s direct presence in heaven. This is ultimately where Christ’s faithful disciples will follow Him to. **Matthew 25:46**

X. Conclusion

- A. While sacrifices must be made to be Christ’s true disciples, the value of following Him far outweighs the “cost.” Whatever changes one must make or hardships one must endure, it is more than worth it to choose the path of discipleship.