

Blessed or Duped?

Sunday Morning, March 22, 2015

Thesis:

Man's View of Life Has Distorted God's Plan For Life

Introduction:

Jesus Reveals Man's View of Life and How It Has Distorted God's Plan for Life.

I. Blessed Unexpectedly!

(Luke 6: 20 – 23)

20 Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh.

22 Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

Physical / Spiritual Heart

(Galatians 2:20)

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

The Life I Now Live

(Hebrews 11:6)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

(Romans 12:11)

not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

(Philippians 3: 10 – 14)

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Are we obsessed with living our lives for Christ?

II. "Duped" Unexpectedly!

"Duped" means one that is easily deceived or cheated
(Luke 6: 24 – 26)

24 "But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation.

25 Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger.
Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep.

26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you,
For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Fooled Fulfillment?

(Philippians 4: 6 – 7)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

A Right Heart Focused On God = Peace

Earnestly seek the truth of God and guard ourselves from being spiritually duped !

Conclusion:

Illustration

In New York City, there are eight million cats and eleven million dogs. New York City is basically just concrete and steel, so when you have a pet in New York City and it dies, you can't just go out in the back yard and bury it. The city authorities decided that for \$50 they would dispose of your deceased pet for you.

One lady was enterprising. She thought, I can render a service to people in the city and save them money. She placed an ad in the newspaper that said, "When your pet dies, I will come and take care of the carcass for you for \$25." This lady would go to the local Salvation Army and buy an old suitcase for two dollars. Then when someone would call about his or her pet, she would go to the home and put the deceased pet in the suitcase.

She would then take a ride on the subway, where there are thieves. She would set the suitcase down, and she would act like she wasn't watching. A thief would come by and steal her suitcase. She'd look up and say, "Wait. Stop. Thief." My guess is the people who stole those suitcases got a real surprise when they got home. A lot of us are like those New York thieves. We're chasing after happiness, and we grab what we think will give us happiness; however, when we get it, it doesn't quite deliver.

Know the Outcome of Your Life Focus!