

“The Best Deal You Will Ever Make”

2 Corinthians 5:21

Tuesday Bible Lunch

February 25,2020

Introduction: We all like a good deal. Businesses know that and advertise accordingly.

- You can't watch television very long without seeing a good deal on a new car or truck.
- Mattress offers come almost one after another.
- Furniture advertisements are endless.
- One plumbing company runs the exact commercial almost back to back.
- The drug industry dominates TV commercials.
- Online popups appear hourly.

When we buy something, whatever it is, we like to think that we got a good deal. We all like good deals.

Question: What qualifies as a good deal?

1. Is what you pay for something that qualifies it as a good deal?
2. Or is what you got for what you bought that qualifies it as a good deal?

You may buy something cheap and find that it was not as good of a deal as you had thought.

Illustration: The saying “Good candy is not cheap and cheap candy is not good” is often very true.

Today, I want to talk to you about the best deal that you will ever make. It is in one verse in the Bible.

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:21

- On the cross, Jesus did not become a sinner.
- The Bible is very clear that Jesus never sinned (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24).
- All the sins of humanity were placed **on** Him.
- But they were not **in** Him.
- Jesus became a sin-offering on our behalf.
- His righteousness was credited to our account.
- We traded our sins for His righteousness.
- That is the “trade” of all trades.
- This qualifies as a good deal.

Theologians call this positional righteousness. Positional righteousness is God’s part. Our part is called practical righteousness.

1. **Positional righteousness** is what we receive.

- Positional righteousness takes us to heaven.

2. **Practical righteousness** is what we achieve.

- The Bible says, “Everyone who practices righteousness is born of God” (1 John 2:29).
- Practical righteousness—living life by God’s standards brings blessings on the way to heaven.

The Bible says, “Blessings are on the head of the righteous” (Proverbs 10:6). This is talking about practical righteousness.

- Positional righteousness is settled. Practical righteousness is not settled. Practical righteousness depends on how we live our daily lives based on God’s Word. The more obedient we are to God’s Word (practical righteousness) the more the blessings we experience.

Some Blessings from practical righteousness that we often overlook.

1. Each day: “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).
 - Don’t waste the day.
 - Enjoy each day.
 - You will never experience this day again.
 - Enjoy the blessing of each day.
2. The Bible: Only when you are living your life in practical righteousness will you realize the blessing of your Bible. The Bible tells us how to live.
3. The Holy Spirit within us empowering us to live as the Bible teaches.
4. Afflictions that come our way. The Bible says, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes” (Psalm 119:71).

Conclusion: The degree that we are aware of God's blessings is a good tool to measure the level of our personal righteousness. When we daily realize the blessing of God, we are living in personal righteousness. When we do not think much about God's blessings, we are not living in personal righteousness as we should and need to be.