



A paradox is defined as a statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense, and yet may be true. Such is found in the Word of God, when Jesus said in Mat 10:39, "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

In the same vein, some paradoxes illustrate life's applications in how people actually desire their life to be, and how their actions and pursuits show the complete opposite. For example, we all heard the saying, "Everyone wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die."

Pro 13:7 says: "There is one who makes himself rich, yet *has* nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet *has* great riches."

Paul in 1Cor 3:19 said, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness."

So, what's the point here? Interestingly, our world while claiming to be wise, consistently demonstrate by their actions and words the complete opposite.

Let's think about our much time, effort and money people invest for education, fitness, retirement, for a life that might last 90 years, yet won't give God the time of day towards life after death; or that they pass laws against murder, yet allow the killing of children still in the womb! Paradox enough?

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We all understand the benefits of knowledge, the reason wise people invest 15 to 20 years in education, with the objective of securing a career that will provide them satisfaction, good income and comfort, even if the tab to graduate from most colleges can add up to more than \$100,000, leaving many with debts for years from student loans. In essence, most careers normally last maybe 40 years, and our efforts and money investments in education are meant to also produce a secure and rewarding retirement.

In comparison, how much time do we invest to educate ourselves in the Word of God, to find out how to secure an eternal retirement with God, as opposed to ending up in eternal damnation?

Pro 1:7 says, "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Interestingly, true knowledge about God is free, found in the bible, and as 2Tim 3:16 says, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Therefore, isn't it an interesting life paradox to see how people invest much for this world's education to profit us for this very limited life, yet won't give God the time of day for an eternal retirement?

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Everything we do in life always has a purpose, whether for good or evil. As such, in living to prosper in all aspects of life, our actions always line up with our objectives.

For example, we are motivated to invest much effort in our careers to build financial security, live comfortably, and provide for worry free retirement. Additionally, we invest in real estate, the stock market and even businesses, so as to reap a comfortable income and financial security.

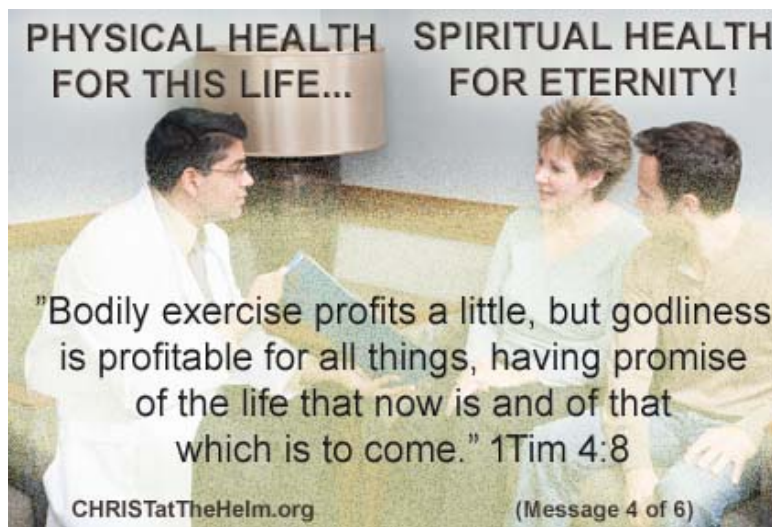
In the story about the rich man who was making so much money he had to build bigger barns in Luke 12:16-21, Jesus said "You fool! This *very* night your soul is demanded of you; and *as for all* that you have prepared, who will own *it now*?' Such is the one who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich in relation to God."

Jesus in added in Mat 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

In other words, wouldn't wisdom imply we should use the same principle and objective, to purpose and prepare for the eternal life to come?

How rich are we in relation to God right now?

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We know that physical exercise, healthy nutrition, and getting enough sleep help us be healthy in this life. Let's not forget also that it comes at a cost in discipline, time, effort, and even money.

So, why do we discipline ourselves to be physically healthy?

Obviously, comfort and absence of pain are probably the most important factors. Again, we live a paradox that shows how much we care to discipline ourselves to be healthy physically in this life, and make sure we choose the right doctors and specialists to guide and heal us.

Yet, do we even think about consulting the "One" only true spiritual consultant, Christ, for a perfect healthy eternal life with God?

Ps 73:26 says, "My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Surely, our bodies will age and die.

Have we however considered that our soul and spirit live forever, and that depending on the choices we make in this life about God, it will produce either perfect joy and blessings, or dire painful consequences eternally?

Can we say like Paul in 1Cor 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

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Isn't our world all about seeking comfort and pleasure? The big question is, does our pursuit for this world's pleasure agree with what the Word of God teaches us?

Gal 2:20 says, "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 and gave Himself for me."

If we claim to believe in God and Christ, shouldn't we seek to know what Jesus taught us so as to be true to our confession of faith?

In the parable of the seed of Luke 8:14, Jesus pointed out what happens if we let the pleasures of this life control us: "Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity."

Then Paul in 2Tim 2:22 said, "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Jesus warned us in Mat 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Do we live our faith out of a pure heart and pursue God's righteousness, or do we only seek after the world's pleasures?

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How can we live this life, seeking peace, joy, comfort, security, benefits and health, while at the same time lining up with God's Word for a peaceful, joyful, secure, healthy and perfect eternal life?

Rom 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Col 2:8: "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

Mat 6:33: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Mat 6:19-20: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Joshua 1:8: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Is our treasure with God, or is it with the world?

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