

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #5

John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version

(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

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### The Cross of Christ By John T. Polk II

"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation."

(Galatians 6:14-15)

The Holy Spirit-inspired Apostle Paul wrote this summary of why the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is a most important, pivotal moment in human history.

1) *No person has any reason to "boast" (brag), for nothing we do has earned our salvation.*

a) "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

b) "Therefore let no one boast in men" (1 Corinthians 3:21).

2) *The love of God through the cross has greater appeal to do good than the Devil's damnation has appeal to do evil in the world.* It is this repentant turn to the cross "by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

a) Jesus lovingly went to His cross to die **for** the world: "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father" (John 10:17-18).

b) Each sinner must lovingly identify with Jesus' cross and die **to** the world: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we

have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin" (Romans 6:3-6).

c) "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:10-11).

d) Because of this change, we "are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him" (Colossians 3:8-10).

3) *In Christ, "neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation."*

a) "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).

b) None of Moses' Law, which required fleshly circumcision applies to Christians today, but only Christ's Law, which is written in the New Testament.

After His resurrection, "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned'" (Mark 16:15-16). This is Jesus' offer of the benefit of His cross. -----jtpII

**Salted Speech Colossians 4:6**

~ The hard days are what makes you stronger. -Aly Raisman

~Happy are those who live day by day, complain very little and are thankful for the little things.

~Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until they speak. - Steven Wright

## Where Are You Going to Place Your Bet?

No, this isn't an article promoting or justifying gambling. But it is an article on you betting on something. Let me explain.

Seventeenth-century French philosopher, Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), made an argument for faithfulness to God which has come to be known as "Pascal's Wager." Paraphrased, the "wager" is this: "Where are you going to place your bet? If you place it with God and there is no God, you lose nothing. If you place it against God and He exists, you lose everything."

Mr. Pascal's argument was that even if the existence of God cannot be determined through reason, a rational person should wager as though God exists, because living life accordingly has everything to gain, and nothing to lose.

Consider this line of thinking in view of how we live. What does a person lose by believing in God and living faithful to His Word even if God did not exist? Other than a few worldly pleasures, the answer is nothing. Living in accordance with God's will produces a life that is full of joy, meaning, and satisfaction. It provides a way to cope with adversity and live guilt-free.

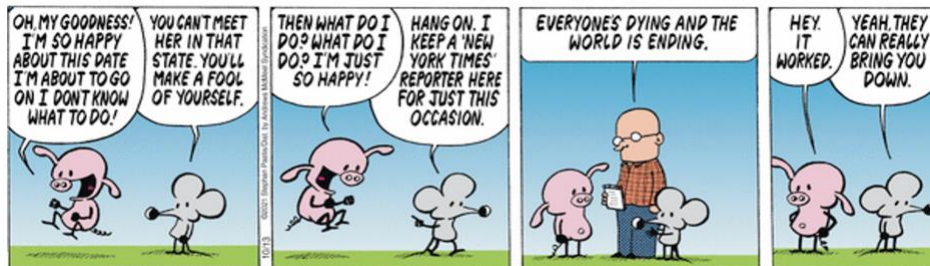
Now look at the other side of the coin. What if God does exist, and one chooses not to believe in Him or live the way He desires? What can be gained by such a lifestyle? The answer is nothing. Though some temporary matters may be gained, one will end up lost for all eternity.

It just doesn't make sense to wager against God. So, where will you place your bet?

"Then Jesus said..." If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

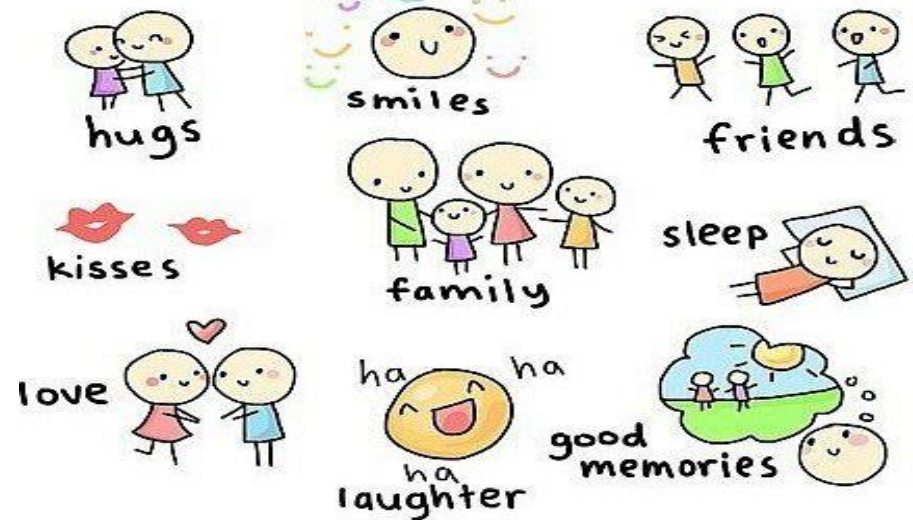
(Matt. 16:24-27)

- Edd Sterchi, Campbellsville, KY



Pearls Before Swine

the best things in life are free.



## Six Four-Letter Words for Christians

→ Appropriate Four-Letter Words for Christians ←

### Love

- Matthew 22:37-38
- 1 Peter 1:22
- 1 John 4:19-20

### ObeY

- Romans 6:17-18
- Hebrews 5:8-9
- Matthew 7:21-23

### Pray

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 1 John 5:14

### Work

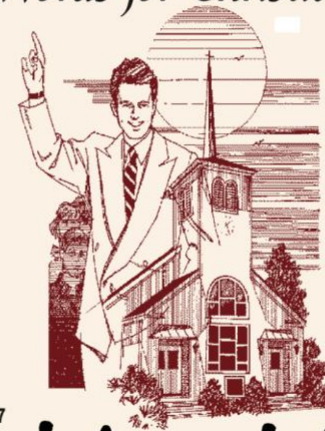
- John 9:4
- James 5:14
- 1 Peter 3:12
- Philippians 4:6-7

### Give

- Acts 20:35
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

### Look

- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- Hebrews 12:1-2



ARE YOU USING APPROPRIATE FOUR-LETTER WORDS?