

Profit and Loss

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every time! **It's like God is gently laying His hand on their shoulder** and trying to tell them something, only to have them yank their arm or shoulder away. In one instance, God said they were robbing Him. He reasoned with them on their level by suggesting they try the same with their earthly ruler, which He knew *wouldn't* be tolerated, even if they tried.

Would *YOU* rob God? Some people will do or give practically anything rather than give *themselves* to God. God is our rightful Owner, for as a starter, He *created* us! If we withhold ourselves from God, we join the ranks of those involved in **human trafficking and other forms of people-stealing**. We are coning God—*robbing Him*—not realising that we are also coning ourselves!

In the closing words of the last chapter of Malachi, God foretells a curative measure He is sending "*lest I come and strike the earth with a curse*." These are the final words of the Old Testament, and they may *appear to be* angry, despotic and tyrannical...at least, this is the impression of God given to us by atheist, Richard Dawkins. But note carefully **that word: "lest!"** In other words, God is taking preventative action so that *dreadful consequences* may be avoided. The word "**curse**" apparently means "a ban," but such a horrific term as was applied by the Jews to the extermination of the guilty Canaanites. God made it clear that He allowed the Hebrews to dispossess the Canaanites specifically because of the wickedness of those people who were guilty of offering their children in sacrificial fires to their false gods, and of gross sexual immorality, as well as other abominations which were intolerable to God. But mark it down, God also warned

the Hebrews (Israel) that if they followed the pattern of those people, then they would also follow in their judgment. Reading the Old Testament shows us that God meant what He said relating to Israel.

In Mal. 3:6, as elsewhere in the Bible, **God makes it clear that He does not change**. What God says *there and then* still stands *today*. In other words, if we fail to take God seriously, we face "a ban." That extermination referred only to the earthly life of human beings, not to their eternity-bound, never-ending, *real* existence. Recall, Jesus said that we are not to fear the ones that can only kill the body and no more, but to fear the One, who *after* the body is dead has power to send the person (both soul and body) to Hell (see Matt. 10:28).

God seeks man's best. He always has. Yet, like Egypt's ruler in Moses' day (Exodus 5:2), rebels against God ask "*Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?*" and "*It profits man nothing that he should delight in God.*" (Job 21:15; 34:9). **Mega-rich King Solomon** exposes "the other side" of worldly pleasures and pursuits. He wrote repeatedly from painful experience in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes of the emptiness and the eternal doom that awaits any who put their trust, hope or happiness in *any* earthly "gains." In contrast, even if God allows or sends correction or suffering to His believing and obeying children, God does so "*for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.*" (Heb. 12:10). **The Queen of Sheba** travelled far to see and test Solomon, and said that of the great reports of him she had heard, "*the half had not been told!*" (1 Kings 10). Yet, Jesus said of Himself in comparison to the splendour of that fabulous king: "*a greater than Solomon is here!*" (Matt. 12:42). **Even if we must count some "gains" as "loss"** (Phil. 3:7-9), **our true and unceasing profits are immeasurable. Let's dig for treasure!** (Matt. 6:19-21).

'Canaanites Are To Be Destroyed!' (See above paragraph) This was as God's command and to the Hebrews who dispossessed them. Deut. 18:9-22 tells about this, and lists some of God's reasons. Read it. This chapter also foretells the coming of CHRIST, & no other! A powerful lesson to learn & apply is this: if any people or nation reject this Christ, they naturally deteriorate into Canaanite lifestyle & religion. God shall then judge them accordingly.

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The London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

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People generally fail to remember or realise that **our greatest profit or loss is within; how it affects character**—who we really are. Jesus asked the questions, "*What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul; or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Mark 8:36,37). Sin on the *inside*, and "saturation" from *outside* sources becloud people's minds and hearts so completely that they believe they can hold on to that which God clearly condemns, and *still* please God and make it to heaven!

One thing God denounced in the Old Testament was when merchants would have purposely-dodgy scales for weighing (to their advantage, of course!) the items they were selling. **Profits are never to be made falsely, even if the lying is legalized.** People have now also trained themselves to be content with

"fake designer items!" The profit only *appears to be there*.

What will you do if the banks collapse, and they inform you that there is *really* no money? I encouraged you to watch the two documentaries about money on the internet: **Money As Debt** (47 min.), and the much longer documentary, **The Money Masters**. Also, see on the internet **America: Freedom to Fascism—Aaron**

Russo Interview (37 min.). Last month a bank manager laughed in my face when I suggested he see these documentaries. He exclaimed "**We WANT people in debt!**"

St. Paul wrote "*But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived*" (2 Tim. 3:13). It is so easy to convince yourself that lies and truth are the same. While you may appreciate and enjoy fake flower arrangements in your house, none of us would try living on fake food items from a lovely shop display!

Where do you draw the line for tolerating fakery or deception? God speaks about this so well in the last "book" of the Old Testament, Malachi. Its 4 chapters take less than 3 1/2 pages. God tells the people the truth about their evil words and doings, but they deny it

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Next Month is Christmas, when we remember Christ coming to earth to live among people like us. This is the greatest twinning: personal contact with others in Christ-like living— not a cheap copy, but an inward and outward possession through the free gift of God. If you truly believe there is an eternity to prepare for, & a heaven and hell, then for God's sake, share God's truth with others... lovingly & courteously. The urges from God's urgency toward man.



The Best Portrait of Christ

(Edited)

What a privilege, but what a responsibility, to bear the name: "Christian!"

Holman Hunt's beautiful painting called "The Light of the World" hangs in St. Paul's here in London. It is a picture of the Lord Jesus standing at a closed door. In His left hand He holds a lighted lantern, for the night is dark and you can see the thin moon in the background. His right hand is raised and He is knocking on the closed door. The door has no latch for it is bolted on the inside. The painter means to tell us that it is our Lord standing at the door of our heart. He is saying: "*Behold I stand at the door and knock*" (Rev. 3:20).

Where did the painter get the figure and face of the Christ? My friend, Dr. Covert, was on a ship passing through the Panama Canal and sitting next to him was a gentleman by the name of Arthur H. Clark. Dr. Covert was very interested in church songs, music and other beautiful things, and happened to mention Holman Hunt. Mr. Clark told him the following story:

Holman Hunt was often a visitor in Mr. Clark's grandfather's house. He came and went as a familiar friend. One day he talked about the picture that was in his mind and asked his son (Mr. Clark's own father who was then a young man), if he could use him as a model for the figure of Christ—and so he did. He painted his father's feet and hands and form, and just changed the face so that it would look like

the familiar face of Christ. Mr. Clark said he felt so strange to see his father standing at the door, as it were Christ Himself. Although changed, when he looked at the painting he saw his father's face, his father's hands, his father's feet and it made him very thoughtful.

And yet, is not that one of the main ways we can see Christ? We see Him in those who truly love Him. Jesus said: "*If a man love Me...My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him*" (John 14:23). St. Paul said: "*Christ lives in me*" (Gal. 2:20). And so Christ speaks through our lips. He works through our hands. He moves on His mission of salvation through our feet. He shows His love through our love. How wonderful! Here is the same thought in lovely words:

*"Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work to-day;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To bring men to His side."*

That is true but it is not the whole truth. The Spirit of God works where and when and how He pleases. The whole world is His, and everything that has breath is called upon to praise Him. Sometimes He speaks to us through the beauty of the flowers, or the evening sky, or the starry heavens. But it is still true that the best messengers our Heavenly Father has are His own dear children; those who have been united to Him through Jesus Christ. May our prayer be, "**Oh Lord, speak through me, Your message of life and light and love.**"

**Listen, Christian: A World At It's Worst, Needs A Church At It's Best.
Don't Just Say It—Live Like It.**

Atheist & evolutionist, Richard Dawkins, has revealed his faith in the non-observable. In an interview, he said the following: "Evolution has been observed. It's just that it hasn't been observed while it's happening." Yes, and I can turn myself invisible when no one is looking. Pseudo-intellectualism, so-called fashion...you name it...they all end up in utter foolishness.

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.

The Best Portrait of GOD!

(Edited)

Read the book of Hebrews in the Bible.



Jesus Christ came in lowly form, and appeared to His friends as a man; but when they learned to know Him, they found that He was far more.

We understand the central meaning of Christ's life only when we see in His every act and word a manifestation of the heart and life of God.

When we find Him at a wedding-feast, we see God putting His approval anew upon the sacredness of marriage, and upon innocent human gladness and festivities.

When we behold Him taking little children in His arms and blessing them, we learn how God feels toward children, and that He wants parents now to bring their infants to Him.

When we see Him "moved with compassion" in the presence of pain or of sin, we have a glimpse of God's pity toward the suffering and the sinning.

When we look at Him receiving the outcast and the fallen, treating them with kindness, forgiving them, and transforming their lives into beauty, we see how God feels toward sinners, and what He is ready to do for the worst and guiltiest.

When we behold Him going at last to the Cross in voluntary sacrifice, giving His life for the lost, we see how

God *loves* sinners. By all of these, the life of Jesus is a manifesting of the invisible God in acts and expressions which we can understand. Therefore it is literally true, as Jesus said, "*He that has seen Me has seen the Father*" (John 14:9). If we would ever see God, and know Him, and enter His family, we must receive Christ. To reject Christ is to shut ourselves for ever away from the vision of God, for where else can we go to see and truly know Him?

An elderly man I see regularly as I take this paper out told me recently that he couldn't understand the existence of God, for everything has a beginning. He asked if I have ever seen God, and asked if I knew what God looks like. I replied, "If I ever want to know what God looks like, I look at Jesus Christ." There is not a more perfect example of God available to the human mind and understanding.

(Selected) **A UNIVERSITY WOMAN** of keen mind was telling me of the discovery she had made of Christ as a man—His humanity brought Him so near to us, He was no longer in the heavens, but alongside of us, struggling with our struggles. She had found an example of life. It left her mentally satisfied, but morally defeated. Then I told her that in Jesus we have two things: **One Who is like us**, meeting life as we meet it, calling on no power that you and I cannot have for our moral battle. He met life, not as God, but as a man. Therefore He is my Example. But I find something else in Him. He confronts me from the side of God with an offer of redemption. **He is thus unlike me, therefore my Redeemer.** Had He been only *like* me He could have been only my example, had He been only *unlike* me He could have been only my Redeemer. But He was both, and therefore meets my dual need. For I need light and I need power. "**Say that in every sermon, won't you?**" she said, as this truth dawned on her and made her utterly new. She had found Him as power. This is also for you—right now!

In the year before his death, 1945, H. G. Wells wrote his last book, "Mind At The End of Its Tether". He said this: "Here am I at the age of sixty-five still seeking peace. I can't adjust myself to find any peace in this world. The end of everything we call life is close at hand and we cannot avoid it. The world is moving into impenetrable darkness." Sci-Fi here meets its end.