

## Gaining the world – BUT losing the soul

*Wisdom under God's wings.*

Message 1: [Under your wings series](#)

*D E Wasake, a servant of Christ Jesus*

*January 2024*

### Introduction

There was a man, he set out to pursue everything he desired in life:

1. He sought to be the **wisest, the most intelligent man** in the world.
2. Then he set out to explore **hedonism – living life for pleasure**.
3. Then he also looked for **pleasure in alcohol**.
4. As if that was not enough, he **accumulated wealth** – he built houses, planted gardens and parks, amassed wealth, and even like the playboy Hugh Hefner – he acquired a harem of women.

After all these things, this man concluded that EVERYTHING IS MEANINGLESS, CHASING AFTER the WIND (Ecclesiastes 1 – 2). This man as you might have guessed was the famous king Solomon, the wisest and richest king. The one who had over 700 wives and concubines.

He did all these things I described and still did not find what he was looking for. What about you?

When we try to pursue all these things like King Solomon did, it is the same as gaining the whole world – **but** if you gain all the pleasures of your flesh but are not rich toward Christ, you have lost your soul and then what good is this – you might as well have never existed.

This message will help you to ensure that you can protect your soul, as you achieve all that God has purposed for you in this world.

### About me and the oracles of the Lord

In 2017, I was chasing the pleasures of life as I had for 20 years. I was living a hedonistic life. I felt I had all that I needed - money, a good career and if I wanted a companion for the night, I could find one. Then I had a radical encounter with Jesus, the Christ. He turned my life around so radically when he told me to follow him. I gave up all my past life and dedicated the rest of my life to be his servant. I have spent the last few years seated at Jesus' feet reading the Bible. It is through this time with him that he told me to preach a series of 12 messages called "*Under your wings*" and this message is the first of those series.

### Anchor verse

The Lord Jesus while speaking to his disciples asked them a really fundamental question, he asked them:

*What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? Matthew 16: 26 (NIV).*

The **correct answer** to this question is this: The soul of a human being is priceless and there is nothing you can give in exchange for your soul – not money, not pleasure, not intelligence, not beauty, nothing in this world.

The **correct answer** to this question means this: If nothing can be given in exchange for your soul – then nothing should stand in the way between you and the one who can protect your soul from the danger of losing it – in hell fire.

The **correct answer to this question also means**: Jesus is the only one, more than anything who can safely keep your soul on the day of your death and so if he tells you to follow him and do what he tells you, it is really important to listen to him because failure to listen to him, can mean forfeiting your soul – and since it is priceless, if you lose it, you lose everything.

If there is a correct answer to this question, it means there is also a wrong answer.

### **What can anyone give in exchange for their soul (the wrong answer)?**

People will give up their precious birthrights, their soul for less important things and so they come to the wrong answer when you ask: “*What can anyone give in exchange for their soul?*” The Bible gives us examples of those who answered this question wrongly. For example:

- (i) **Esau** gave up his birthright or he sold his birthright to his younger brother Jacob for a bowl of soup and bread (Genesis 25: 29-34). For a bowl of lentil stew, Esau gave up the right to enjoy the covenant of God and instead of God becoming the God of Abraham, Isaac and Esau, he became the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Would you give up your soul for a bowl of soup?
- (ii) **Judas**, one of Jesus’ 12 disciples betrayed his Lord and the saviour of the world for 30 pieces of silver. Silver is worth (2024 prices) about \$26 per ounce at its highest price. If each of the 30 pieces Judas got was worth an ounce, that he received the worth of \$780. When Judas later realized what he did, he went and committed suicide. For \$780 dollars, this man gave up his place as an apostle of the lamb and forfeited his soul. Would you give up your soul for \$780 dollars?
- (iii) **Demas**. [Demas was a co labourer with the great Apostle Paul](#). He worked with Paul alongside famous names we know such as Mark and Luke the gospel writers as well as Timothy to whom Paul wrote 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy. The Bible however records this about Demas at the end: *“Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica” (2 Timothy 4:10)*. Demas loved this temporary world, which is passing, more than the eternal riches of Christ and so he lost his place in the great hall of faith – which those like Mark and Luke and Timothy achieved. Would you give up your soul and your place in Jesus’ great heroes of faith for the pleasures of this world?

All three of these men thought they were gaining something – money, fame, pleasure and yet they lost EVERYTHING. These men did not have the discernment to see that there is nothing more precious than your soul. They thus became fools and this is the verdict of Jesus when someone is not rich in things of God (Luke 12:13-21).

## Christ, the whole duty of mankind

There was a man, who set out to pursue everything he desired in life:

1. He sought to be the wisest, the most intelligent man in the world.
2. Then he set out to explore hedonism – living life for pleasure.
3. Then he also looked for pleasure in alcohol.
4. As if that was not enough he accumulated wealth – he built houses, planted gardens and parks, amassed wealth and he even like the playboy Hugh Hefner – he acquired a harem of women.

After all these things this man, concluded that EVERYTHING IS MEANINGLESS, CHASING AFTER the WIND (Ecclesiastes 2: 1-11).

This man – King Solomon, his story could have been like that of Esau, Judas and Demas but he realized something they didn't and thus he became wiser. When Solomon concluded his book of Ecclesiastes – which records his journey in enjoying the things of his world, he wrote this:

*Now all has been heard;  
here is the conclusion of the matter:  
Fear God and keep his commandments,  
for this is the duty of all mankind.  
For God will bring every deed into judgment,  
including every hidden thing,  
whether it is good or evil.  
Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14 (NIV).*

Solomon concluded that the best thing to do is to fear God and keep his commandments and that is the DUTY of all mankind. The wisest and richest man concluded that God is the answer.

When you come to the end of your life, there will be a separation of things. This separation will include you as a human who is made up of 3 parts – body, soul, and spirit.

You and I cannot control 2 of the things that will happen at death (Ecclesiastes 12:7). We can however control 1.

1. Your **body** will return to the ground from which it was made. "Dust to dust," this is God's decree. We cannot control this.
2. Your **spirit**, the breath of life will return to God – this is God's property. We cannot control this.
3. Your **soul** – your soul, you can however possess and you can choose where it will go. You can choose whether it goes to heaven or hell. It is the soul which will be brought to judgment. You can control this.

After you have lived your life, you will face God's judgment.

If you lived your life entirely for your body – eating and drinking and living for pleasure, as if that is all that mattered, you will have nothing at the end – all your life will go into the ground, dust to dust and you will reap eternal death for being a fool who was unable to discern the seasons and times.

If you however lived your life with your soul in mind, being rich toward God and trusting in Christ to keep your soul, then you will be counted blessed, you will inherit eternal life.

Which of these options will you choose? I hope by now you know the right answer.

## **The Message of Jesus to you**

If you put your trust in Jesus, you can never go wrong. He is the one who will keep your soul safe on the day of judgment when God judges everything. Jesus is the one under whose wings you can hide and be safe and in fact one of the verses Jesus gave me in this season is this from Psalm 91:

*He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;*

*Psalm 91: 4 (NIV).*

Do you want to hide under Jesus' wings so that your soul can be safe? If you do, that is the correct answer – pray this prayer to become a Christian:

*"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

Lord Jesus, come – Maranatha!