

Is it Worth It?

I. The Gospel provided a way for the impossible to be possible. It is the only message that saves people for eternal life.

And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9(NIV)

¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

2 Corinthians 5:17(NIV)

¹⁸ *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ 2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV)*

¹⁹ *that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them...*

2 Corinthians 5:19(NIV)

²¹ *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21(NIV)

II. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not only a message that saves people for eternal life, but a message that restores a broken world.

One of the things we were asked to look into was what accounted for the success, in fact the pre-eminence of the West all over the world. We studied everything we could from the historical, political, economic and cultural perspective. At first, we thought it was because you had more powerful guns than we have. Then we thought it was because you had the best political system. Next we focused on your economic system.

But in the past twenty years, we have realized that the heart of your culture is your religion: Christianity. That is why the West has been so powerful.

The Christian moral foundation of social and cultural life was what made possible the emergence of capitalism and then the successful transition to democratic politics. We don't have any doubt about this.

Studies by Chinese Sociologist reveal that in rural areas where traveling evangelists introduce the Christian faith opium addiction goes down, crime drops, and Christian families grow wealthier than their neighbors.

Phillip Yancey, *What Good is God?*

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21(NIV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:22-24(NIV)

- He intercedes for us with groanings, prompting us to pray, **(Romans 8:26)**
- He searches our hearts **(Romans 8:27)**
- He talks to us **(Acts 13:2, 16:6-7,)**
- He teaches all things **(John 14:26)**
- He reminds us of scripture **(John 14:26)**

25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25(NIV)

III. Take Away

A. God has saved us to get involved.

B. Involvement in God's work in whatever capacity helps advance God's work of salvation and restoration.