

Searching the Scriptures / 92 / Whosoever Tries To Save His Life Will Lose It / Part 2

Today we want to continue with our study of Mark 8:35–37: *“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his: soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

This passage supports the concept that to live life solely for material gain without true spiritual life will only lead one to lose his soul in Hell. On the other hand, if one has received salvation in his soul, his physical life will be gladly spent in diligent service and loving obedience to his dear Savior as he anticipates spending eternity with Him. In our time together, let us examine these three points related to the second part of verse 35:

1. Losing is Winning
2. What is Truly Profitable?
3. Ultimate Satisfaction

1. Losing is Winning

Paul, under divine inspiration, describes what others said about his spiritual pilgrimage in Gal 1:23 as follows: *“... he [Paul] which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.”* To help us better understand the phrase, *“... whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it”*, we can turn to Php 3:4–14: *“Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

2. What is Truly Profitable?

So, what can we say is truly profitable? The Bible explains in John 6:63, *“It is the spirit that quickeneth [or makes alive]; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”* Even if one were to give up their possessions to feed the poor, or give their body to be burned (and from time to time, people do this), it would not truly profit them in any spiritual sense, or bring salvation. 1 Cor 13:3 states, *“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity [love] it profiteth me nothing.”*

We also learn that what is truly “profitable”, or valuable, is the Bible itself, because Rom 10:17 says: “*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

However, even God’s Word can be “unprofitable” to those who do not hear it with “ears of faith”, as we see from the sad example in Heb 4:2 of the Israelites, who escaped from Egypt but never made it to the Promised Land: “*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, in them that heard it.*”

3. Ultimate Satisfaction

Ultimate satisfaction can only be achieved by one whose soul has been granted eternal life by the “*Author and Finisher of Faith*”—the Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout the Bible we learn that God Himself is our ultimate satisfaction. Psa 16:11 declares, “*Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*” In Gen 15:1 God announced to Abram (God later changed his name to Abraham), “*After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*”

Psa 36:8 gives the child of God this assurance: “*They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.*” Psa 42:1–2 pictures those who hunger and thirst for God Himself: “*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*”

The Christian longs for the day when he can “*in herit all things*” according to Rev 21:6–7 “*And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*”

The word “overcometh” means “to be victorious”. Have you become victorious in Christ?