



The Good News

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Profit and Loss

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In any economy, we will hear references from companies and individuals regarding “profit and loss”. To put it simply, the phrase represents the question “How much are we losing because of this and how much are we gaining because of that?” In business, it’s all about coming out “in the black”, allowing for loss in some areas but making sure there are enough gains in others to make a profit. So, how can this concept be applied in our spiritual life? Do we allow for some weaknesses or spiritual “losses” while hoping to come out with enough gains to make a spiritual “profit”? While this doesn’t fit with what the Bible teaches is necessary to please God, some people follow this concept. They want to keep certain areas of their life the same, even though they know it to be wrong. So, they do other things right hoping to come out with an overall “profit” on Judgment Day. For instance, someone knows they are in a sinful relationship but, instead of addressing that “loss”, they focus on going to church and trying to teach others, thinking those “profits” will make up for it. What does the Bible have to say about “profit and loss”?

PROFIT:

Eccl. 8:12 – *“Though a sinner do evil a hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him.”* If I fear God, I will always want to please Him. This means that when God says, for instance, my relationship is sinful, I do not try to “make up for it”, but rather I seek to fix the “loss”.

I Tim. 4:8 – *“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is*

to come.” Seeking to please God in all things brings profit for my physical and spiritual life.

Titus 3:8 – *“...they which have believed in God must be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”* In pleasing God and doing good works, I not only bring profit for myself, but I also can help bring about spiritual profit for others.

LOSS:

Prov. 24:20 – *“For there shall be no reward to the evil; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.”* Wise Solomon understood that God does not have patience with those who are sinful.

James 2:10 – *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”* James says that if we have one “loss”, we are guilty as a transgressor of God’s law. As such, we are defined as wicked if that “loss”, i.e. a sinful relationship, remains un-repented and un-forgiven.

Mark 8:36 – *“For what does it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”* Jesus asks a rhetorical question, emphasizing the importance of guarding our soul as the most precious possession we own.

Let us always seek to eliminate the “losses” by addressing our weaknesses, rooting out all sin, and maximize the “profits” by always seeking to be pleasing to God.