Lessons From NOTHING!

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 6th, 2020

Text: I Timothy 6:6-8

### Intro

1. Instead of talking about “Something,” let’s talk about “Nothing!”
   1. The Scriptures teach quite a bit on Nothing!
   2. Many lessons about Nothing!
2. Out of nothing God created the world!
   1. Gen. 1:1: God created the heavens and the earth.
   2. Life began with creation: a Self-Existent Being created something out of NOTHING!
   3. Evolutionists even start with something (two objects banging into one another; or a single cell life organism from which all other life evolved). Where did it (they) come from?
   4. Man can rearrange, redesign, reshape, combine, and separate, but cannot create; it must already be in existence!
3. Job recognized the power of God over nothing!
   1. Job 26:7: God “hangs the earth on nothing.”
4. Let us see the many lessons we can learn from *Nothing!*

#### We Brought Nothing Into the World

* 1. I Timothy 6:7: We brought nothing into the world, so will take nothing out when we leave.
     1. We can gain “things” (“stuff”) in this life.
     2. But we won’t take any of it with us when we die *(Luke 12:20: Rich Fool).*
  2. There are three times in life when we have empty hands: at birth, at the time we come to Jesus, and at death.
     1. This verse reminds us of the first and the last. We brought nothing into the world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out.
  3. Before Alexander the Great died (356 B.C.–323 B.C.), he said: “When I am dead, carry me forth on my bier, with my hands not wrapped in cloth, but laid outside, so that all may see that they are empty.” *(Believer’s Bible Commentary on I Timothy 6:7)*
     1. Edward Herbert Bates comments on this: “Yes, those hands which once wielded the proudest scepter in the world; which once held the most victorious sword; which once were filled with silver and gold; which once had power to save or to sign away life, were now EMPTY.” *(Spiritual Thoughts from the Scriptures of Truth, p. 160)*
  4. Remember the warning to Israel in Amos 4:12: “Prepare to meet your God!”
  5. The lesson: This life is to be spent preparing for the eternal!

#### Morality Minus Christ = Nothing

* 1. John 15:5: Jesus said, “Apart from Me you can do nothing.”
  2. Morality minus Christ equals Nothing!
     1. Christ is Savior – *Mt. 1:21*
     2. Christ is the Way – *Jn. 14:6*
     3. His gospel is the power to save – *Rom. 1:16*
     4. He will save His church – *Eph. 5:23, 27*
  3. Not enough to be good or productive, but must do it God’s way in Christ’s authority.
     1. Mt. 7:21-23: These are people who did things they thought were “right” but were apart from Christ and so all the “good” they did amounted to nothing!
     2. Col. 3:17: All that we do must be in His authority!
  4. The lesson: Cannot seek to be righteous and leave Christ out of our lives!

#### Subtraction from God’s Word = Nothing

* 1. **Belief minus Baptism = *Nothing***
     1. Mk. 16:16: Belief (faith) + Baptism = Salvation.
     2. 1 + 1 = 2 (Something = Salvation!)
     3. 1 – 1 = 0 (Nothing = Condemnation!)
  2. **Repentance minus Baptism = *Nothing***
     1. Acts 2:38: Repentance + Baptism = Forgiveness of sins (1 + 1 = 2)
     2. Therefore, Repentance (1) – Baptism (1) = Nothing! (0)
     3. Acts 22:16: Paul was an example of Acts 2:38; Told to be baptized to wash away his sins!
  3. **Religious Acts minus Love = *Nothing***
     1. I Cor. 13:1-3:
        1. Faith minus Love = Nothing (I Cor. 13:2)
        2. Benevolence minus Love = Nothing (I Cor. 13:3)
        3. We can do all the right things, say the right things, but if not done out of love, it amounts to Nothing!
     2. God requires action; take away the works from the heart and we become Nothing!
  4. **Salt minus Flavor = *Nothing***
     1. Mt. 5:13: Saints are to be the salt of the earth!
        1. Salt seasons, saves, and preserves!
        2. A child of God that loses these qualities is “good for Nothing!”
        3. Col. 4:6: Our speech must even be seasoned with “salt.”
     2. Compromising with the world causes one’s “salt” to become flavorless!
        1. *Rev. 2:12-29:* The churches at Pergamum and Thyatira were compromising with immorality and were in danger if they didn’t repent!
  5. The seriousness of subtraction from God’s word is seen in Rev. 22:18-19:
     1. Subtraction from God’s word = Subtraction from eternal life!
  6. The lesson: Subtracting from God’s word will amount to *Nothing!*

#### Having Nothing, Yet Possessing All Things

* 1. II Cor. 6:10: “…as having nothing yet possessing all things.”
     1. Having nothing means material possessions.
     2. Having all things means the Spiritual!
     3. Eph. 1:3: God blessed us with every (all) spiritual blessing through Christ!
  2. I Tim. 6:6-8: Godliness + Contentment = Great Gain (something!)
     1. Since man will carry nothing of this world out of the world, the purpose of our stay on earth is not a quest for the material; but the spiritual!
     2. Eccl. 12:13: The purpose of man: to fear God and keep His commandments.
     3. Mt. 6:19-20: Not profitable to lay up treasures on earth (material wealth).
     4. Quote from the movie ‘Gladiator’ (2000): “Our deeds will echo in eternity!”
     5. Rev. 14:13: And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'” Yes, says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.”
     6. Our priorities must be on the spiritual, for that is what we will take out: our soul, and our character! (Rev. 20:12: Books will be opened on the Day of Judgment and we will be judged according to our deeds)
  3. I Tim. 6:8:
     1. Contentment consists of satisfaction with the basic necessities of life.
     2. Matthew 6:25-34:
        1. Our heavenly Father knows that we need food and covering and has promised to supply these.
        2. Most of an unbeliever's life revolves around food and clothing.
        3. The Christian should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and God will see that he does not lack the essentials of life (Mt. 6:33).
        4. The word translated “clothing” in the ESV/KJV/NKJV *(G4629)* means “covering” (NASB) and can include a place to live as well as clothes to wear (NET: “shelter”).
        5. We should be content with food, clothing, and a place to live but focus on spiritual things! (Mt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-3)
  4. The lesson: Recognize the true value of spiritual blessings over the material!

## Conclusion

1. Mark 8:36-37:
   1. If we lose our souls, we have gained absolutely Nothing (wasted a preparatory life)!
   2. To gain the whole world is also to gain absolutely Nothing!
   3. Not wrong to have material things, but we must be willing to part with them if need be; it should not be our focus!
2. We must ensure we are studying God’s word to know His will, and be prepared to obey it!
3. For our soul to gain Nothing in the end is actually only relative to the glorious reward to the faithful *(Rom. 8:18),* for to gain Nothing really is ***Something****…(an unpleasant something!)*
   1. Rev. 20:14-15: If not written in the Book of Life, then suffer the 2nd Death: Lake of fire!
   2. *II Thess. 1:7-9:* Those who do not know God and who have not obeyed the gospel will all suffer this fate! (An eternal “penalty!”)
4. Our lives are to be spent in preparation for eternity! *Eternal life or eternal punishment?*
   1. How have you prepared? *(II Peter 3:10-12: Be holy and godly!)*
5. Learn the lessons from “Nothing”: There is **NOTHING** in this life worth losing your soul to Hell for!
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in error, remember your priorities! Repent & be renewed.
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!