Infinite Gain Or Loss

Tony Mauck · John 14:1–3

INTRODUCTION

- In Pascal's wager, he posits that humans all bet with their lives. Either that God exists or does not exist.
- Given the possibility that God actually does exist, and assuming the infinite gain or loss associated with belief in God or with unbelief, a rational person should live as though God exists.

1 Believe in God, Believe Also in Me

John 14:1–3; Philippians 3:7–8

- Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places.
- Your choice to believe in God or not believe in God, if God exists and the evidence is overwhelming that he does, infinite gain and infinite loss are at stake.
- I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, in order that I may gain Christ.

2 Everybody Chooses

Luke 14; John 10:10; 2 Timothy 1:10

- Everybody chooses. Either I'm going to pursue the route of believing in God or I'm going to pursue the route of not believing him.
- You can drug, party, play, spend, accumulate, indulge the senses until your eyes bug out. Even gain the whole world. But the inevitable end result is infinite loss.
- If you choose to serve God, I'm the first to tell you that there is a cost involved with that.
- But the offer of the Lord is one of abundant living.

3 Many Bet That a Judgment Day Is Not Forthcoming

2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14; Acts 17

- Many bet their lives that a judgment day is not forthcoming.
- You can't sign on to belief in God and not sign on to the day of judgment.
- 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10, we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, Romans 14, every knee shall bow.
- Don't you see how finite that decision is? Where's that going for you ultimately?

4 Little Children, Keep Yourselves From Idols

1 John 5:21

- There's also a danger of believing that you wager that God exists, and yet manufacturing a God of your own thinking and design.
- Little children, keep yourselves from idols.
- Any false concept of God, any false notion becomes tantamount to idolatry. And all idolatry is empty.

5 Choosing Foolishly: The Sobering Moment of Reality

1 Thessalonians 5:1–3; Daniel 5

- When people don't place the wager on the existence of God, what they instead wager is that this day's not happening.
- You know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night, while they are saying peace and safety.
- Then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pains upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape. Infinite loss.
- All of a sudden, all of his drinking and partying and carrying on is replaced by sober reality.
- This night your soul is required of you. So is the person who is not rich toward God.

6 The Reasonableness of That Wager

Isaiah 53; John 14:6; 1 Peter 2:21–23

- The real God of Scripture results in an infinite gain. An infinite gain that emanates from an infinite God.
- How many times have we looked at Isaiah 53 during the Lord's Supper? It's like the crucifixion in high definition. 700 years before it ever happened.
- I've not committed intellectual suicide in believing in God. I've done the wisest, most rational, reasonable thing.
- We have to believe in the real God of Scripture and we have to listen to him. And once we have heard what he has told us, we must submit.
- He kept entrusting himself to him who judges righteously. That's really the wager.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you willing to say this morning, take my life, Lord? And let it be.

MY NOTES