

Good Christian Philosophy To Live By
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Philanthropy In Its Truest Sense

We would be wrong to think that the world of the homeless hasn't changed in the last century. We would be right to think that maybe people should help themselves more. They should try harder to be without these extensive free services found all around. People could be stronger people. They could learn to get by with less and great amounts of money could be used elsewhere. It would make society better overall. In a way it is more philanthropic to expect more from people than it is making people depend on things a certain way. Once you're 18 you're gone.. Because who wants a man child? If people have to swim then they will. The water might not even be that bad if you know what I mean.

Philanthropists may desire a great jail and law system that is very lenient but what we need sometimes are tougher laws, not lighter ones. Philanthropists should say in that instance, "we need to protect innocent people and keep bad people from harming or taking their lives." Lives can be ruined by rampant shoplifters, and how dare them. An employee could take their job very seriously and unlike the shoplifters, they live responsible lives. We may not know just how much the death penalty is needed unless someone kills *our* loved ones. Maybe a judge should hear what those victims have to say about it and take it very seriously.

Worldliness As The Bible Would Put It

The Bible says to not get lost in the cares of the world.

And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. Mark 4:19.

As Christians we should not be driven by modern issues. It has always been that way. It is more so now than it ever was before. That is because of the internet and the nature of how rapidly those things spread. It is an all in one voice. The voice of thousands at once and people are collectively a part of it. We need to understand the Holy Bible. That is what's on us. Outside issues, agendas, problems, philosophies, are all just distractions.

We must focus on The Holy Bible and in that we can do no wrong. Our thinking will not be tainted by worldly intellect when we do. "You cannot serve God and Mammon."

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1 John 2:15-16.

The distractions and "deterrents to faith" include: desires of wealth, hedonism, sinful lifestyles, pride, trying to be better than everyone else, selfishness, materialism, and the kind of indoctrination that worldly things would implant within you. The Bible says that having good things is fine. God wants you to have good things. But he wants your love and your focus. He doesn't want things to get in the way between those things and Him. What He says and what the Bible teaches us is the most important thing, not any material thing we may have.

There Is A Power Behind Being Good And Being Christian

The ways of Jesus Christ have been empowered. In Roman times things were against Christian lifestyles. For so very long now the world was built around Christianity. Our societies and things were established based on what the Bible would make of them. Particularly through Christian doctrine. How quickly things have turned around though. "The wicked never rest." The Devil knows he must act quick, that he doesn't have a lot of time. **Revelations 12:12**. The demons fear God. **James 2:18**. They know who God is. They are fallen angels. Angels were made to know and worship God. They knew who Jesus was when he walked the earth. That is because they were made just as much to know and worship him. They see God in him and it pains them. They are even self hating over it. That is why Jesus Christ has so much power over demons.

There are lots of ways that Christianity can save us from bad things. For them it is much like "live by the sword, die by the sword," while we turn the other cheek. We learn to love and deal with our enemies. If someone would take from us, we let them, knowing that it is better to lose something over losing our lives. We are taught to agree with our adversity rather than contending with it and having ourselves thrown into prison. We don't judge others and that serves us well. We don't spew out of our mouths angry curse words. We are less likely to form bad addictions. We have self restraint. We seek to be blameless and being blameless means having nothing that anyone could blame us for. So naturally life goes better for us.

Furthermore, we have direction in life. God guides us into better places. He corrects us, with mercy and wisdom, if we need to be corrected in our ways. We are not remorseful. Evil spirits would have us doubt ourselves and rob us from the forgiveness that God gives. We are emotionally better off. We restrain from painful emotions like anger. We have control over our sexual nature. We are not contentious. We don't do the sort of things that would imprison us. So the Bible has brought wisdom and guidance in life and it does so better than any other thing. Most importantly, God is beside us in all of these things.

Social Restoration Through The Bible

Without God's wisdom, society can be a wreck and a living hell. They ask "where is God?" "Why would God let things be so bad?" It is because we have refused to have Him around (*they* have.) It is because we have taken the Bible out of our society. It is because of their blasphemy. It is like with the Israelites. God was with them up until the point they went off and worshiped other "gods" and their idols. Not until the Israelites returned to God did good things return to them and as an example they are remarkable. The difference was night and day when it comes to being with Him or being without Him.

All of the things that need to be fixed in our world can be with the Bible. It teaches us what we need to do: to not remain selfish, hedonists, endlessly seeking pleasure, without souls really, self guided, never helping, being like animals, emotionally unwell, without any spirituality guiding us, having impoverished morality, desiring power over others, and so on.

Addictions of all kinds will go away. People would be honest for its own sake. God gives them a reason to speak the truth. He gives people a reason to be moral. The Bible makes people peacekeepers. The New Testament teaches us to love and care for one another. The Bible teaches us to have understanding over resentment. It teaches us to forgive others. It teaches us to control our tongues. It teaches us to have a work ethic. It is simply composed of things that lead to a better world.

The Last Light Of Hope Is The Strongest

When the last lights go out then all of the power of good is brought into that last living flame. When all hope is lost, bravery increases. Life could be so miserable anyway and worth losing to some. Word gets around quickly from the mouths of “last light.” Very legends are born that inspire people. Their journey is worth every bit of challenges it brings. People seek solutions and painfully need them. They become louder and louder against their oppressors. Riots against a bad government form. Often, all it takes is one spark.

In the end a more beautiful world comes from it. Thanks to the effort of a few that became many, the world around them becomes far better and remains that way for a certain amount of time. Evil pops its head up again sooner or later. They are monsters driven back into the void. That is, unless the monster that appears is a most formidable one. They then may suffer for a certain amount of time beneath its authority. In the end, it too will be vanquished. Then, when things become so bad that God must intervene, He will. He will for the sake of the Christians and the sake of the elect. He will gather us up and leave what is bad to spoil upon the earth. They are those destined to hell. God will lock Satan and his angels in the abyss. (Kind of makes me think of spaceships and black holes.) There will be a thousand years of peace before he must be let out again, and he will be overtaken one last time, to be in hell forever after.

Underrated Christian Values

Patience is important. Patience is the one work ethic that you need. Work is mostly hard because of it being time consuming. Unless it is exhaustive then patience is all you need to work well. You’d just take it all one thing at a time until it is done. The same goes for education. So don’t “stare at the clock.” Patience can save you from trouble. When there is an overbearing line at the grocery store and worse, the clerk is taking her or his time, we have it in us to scream. Once we cross that line then like a volcano, it all erupts. If we are able to just sit and wait without any stress then we know that our patience is substantial.

Work ethic is a Christian value. If we are going to earn what we have then we must work for it. Furthermore we should not hand all of it out to our so-called friends. If it is money we earned then we are basically doing our work for our friends. Look at it this way: how would you feel if they came to your very job and asked for money? While you were in the act of working and ready to go home? It’s the same thing as if you gave it to them at home. They take your work and make it their profit. The Bible doesn’t say

anything about giving your money to people who are your equal/ those who don't need it. If you are poor, then don't give to the poor. That is a responsibility of those better off.

We want people to work when it is possible for them, and it almost always is possible. In fact it is Christian to desire those things. "The laborer is worth their wages," **Luke 10**.

Understanding is one thing that can end a lot of hatred we may have. It stops us from building up hatred and anger. When we start to judge poorly things quickly go south. Without (positive) understanding we certainly make an enemy out of people in every way. By contrast, those who just don't use hateful terminology within their minds will not see others in the worst of light. It is like this "I hate them for this reason, that one too, for what they said, how they live," or "I can appreciate them for this, I hope they do better and get what they are after. I wish them the best." We are all in this boat together. Things get rocky for everyone. Nothing is certain in this world and the existence we are under. We should build up perspectives that have us regard people in better, softer, and more gentle ways. It is not a difficult thing to do. In fact, once you are good at that then you'll have freed yourself from a lot of emotional pain and burden. So all you need to do is to have a positive understanding and not a negative one.

Strength because "he is weak but we are strong." Strength because we do not believe in self pity. Strength for being a better person. Unless a problem is truly bad we are not after getting others in trouble. We disregard the worst from people and enjoy the good in them. That takes strength. Strength because we would overpower our addictions. Strength of self restraint. We make ourselves people who do not worry, have worldly born stress, and most generally we have power over the flesh. We are spiritually strong.

Maturity And Self Control are the virtues of the day. They go hand in hand. We see grown men acting like children more than ever before. What ever happened to growing up? They go into fits and tantrums over trivial things. Then they get all loud and even destructive, fully believing it is justified. It isn't. It never turns out well with them. As for me, it scares me thinking that one dumb action could get me locked up. You push someone, you lay a hand on them, even lightly, you could get locked up over it. Let alone what these people do: like what was on the news yesterday. A guy in road rage took a glass bottle and threw it at a window, breaking it. That says to me that the guy had such insufficient self control. Not to mention that guy that just walked right out of

his car with a bat, smashed up another driver's car because of road rage. What does that tell you? Well, with how very many instances there are of these things currently: it says that people have lost self control.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1 Corinthians 13:11.

Hope. The world could take away a lot of hope we have. Maybe we had a parent that did that to us never succeeding in doing what they say. We can hope in God however and know that He is always with us. We can hope in Heaven and know it is a true hope. We can rest assured that our afterlife will be better than this one. So we have less fears. We see beyond the horizon and are blessed with that knowledge. For some, life is a sort of nihilistic affair. To them, their life is pointless. For that reason they live miserable lives ever seeking the next pleasurable thing and know nothing of the world apart from the lust of their eyes. We are *not* animals. We are not strangely floating on a planet like this “just because.” The James Webb Space Telescope has been proving scientists wrong. They are often wrong. They are considered geniuses in their field yet write books where one thing goes wrong and have to rewrite the whole thing. Then this theory works but strangely doesn't. Then how can both be true and things like that complicate the foundation of their knowledge. Everything is magnificent because God created it. They'd believe in any possibility so long as it isn't God. They'd believe in wormholes and multiverses, but not Him. We have hope that they should have. We have a religion whose ways are true. We are gifted with that. It is a gift we want all other humans to have but some simply don't and never will.

Not being worldly is certainly an overlooked virtue of ours. We are not made to be captured by worldly affairs. We are made to go against them and to be free from them. We turn our focus to the Bible and it is a good and dependable book. We have it all laid out before us. The people of the world wage war against one another and that is apart from our “being” and understanding. We do not take up these little cultural/ societal/ political battles. We know right from wrong very distinctly. We are not swallowed whole by the world. We are far less subjected to its sins. Our thoughts are not so tainted as by those who do sin. That's especially bad among those sinners that are after worldly born power. Our power is known not to be our own but to be God's. Wrath belongs to God.

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Romans 12:19.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

(1 John 2:15-17.)

And how deep does the rabbit hole go when it comes to Christian values and Christian virtue? It seems bottomless to me, just as bottomless as the Bible itself.

My Prayers Today

- 1- I pray that God protects us and keeps us.
- 2- I pray that God leads us into His kingdom.
- 3- I pray that evil does not overtake us.
- 4- I pray that we continue living in the light even when the world grows darker.
- 5- May the light of Jesus Christ be within us.
- 6- May we go forward in life as God would have us.
- 7- May we be forgiven of our sins.
- 8- May God's power in the world come to be.
- 9- May Heaven come to earth and reign.
- 10- May we find peace there and a home, a home that is best for us personally.
- 11- May evil things and evil people be kept out of our lives.
- 12- I pray that we all come to know God's will and abide by it.
- 13- I pray for our loved ones and our family.
- 14- Please protect us in our living places and all the places we go, have angels watch over us, Lord.
- 15- May evil things be removed from us. May we never follow after them.
- 16- By your grace and mercy teach us what we should know and how we should live.
- 17- Help us make amends, God, if we must, but teach us our lessons with wisdom and mercy.
- 18- Let us have you in our hearts and minds and be with us during difficult times.
- 19- May no evil prevail against us.
- 20- May neither the Devil nor Satanic forces have any power over us.

21- Save us from lies. Have the truth be known of us. Let no false witness come against us.

22- Make us blameless. Lead us into righteousness. Save us from punishment. Be our judge. Let no lie be spoken of us.

23- Gather us as your people. Pull us up like flowers over weeds. Let us go to you at the time of the rapture.

24- Let us lead just and true lives under your name. Let us live rightly.

25- Save us from death, the harm, and the destruction that this world may bring.

26- Let us be considered well among others and so not bothered. Let nothing interfere with our faith in you.

27- Let life go well for us until the time we enter into your Kingdom.

28- Have us be suitable for Heaven.

29- Remove from us the lusts and the cares of the world having us belong to you.

30- And may your wisdom teach us, guide us, and help us grow.

We pray in the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

You Have One Father, God. You Have A Great Family, Who Are All Others With God.

If your parents are living in depravity then the Christian thing to do is to remove yourself from them. Or maybe you are lucky and your parents lead you into the faith and have you read the Bible and go to church while young. Then you have a Christmas and Easter to enjoy together just as God would have it be as it should be. With me, I took my step father up as my real father (as opposed to my biological father) because he was a Christian man and brought me to God, which was something that would have not happened with the father I was born with. He was a wicked person in many ways, in fact. I would never have been brought to God were it not for him. Therefore I honor his marriage to my mother and ask God to honor it as well.

But we have the grandparents of all grandparents, which is God. One creator. The one who made us. The one who knew us before we were even born as illustrated in the first chapter of Jeremiah. He laid out what was to be with us. He chose us. As Christians, we are Christians and strong in the faith because God wanted us. He picked us out among bad people and set us aside for a Holy destiny. Salvation is a gift and we were born with that gift.

Under God our parents are more like our brothers and sisters. Of course they are our mothers and fathers under human terms but in greater terms they are our brothers and sisters, granted they are also within the faith. Those who are of the Devil are of the Devil. That can be true of any family member. Can be true of any person in the world. When we use the word "family" we should consider our larger family. Christianity is a brother/sisterhood. We are all taught under Jesus Christ. He is our great leader. He is our great shepherd. The one that we should truly look up to is God. He created every last human being on earth. The Lord's Prayer is a "we" thing. Not a "me" thing. We should care for one another and be good towards one another, because our family is made up of Christians and is far from being limited to only those we were born into. I would say, treat another Christian just as well as you would treat your brothers and sisters, because they are.

When People Use Christianity The Wrong Way

The late author Anne Rice once said that Christianity is a dangerous religion. I see what she means. It is not dangerous for what it is. It is dangerous when misused.. Corrupted by evil people. When you take the power of God and misuse it, of course it is dangerous. The Devil wants us to look bad. That is evident in how Christianity is so demonized anymore yet the other religions are not. Anything that is Christian, nothing of whatever else. It has been picked out and targeted by Satan. Christianity not being followed right but instead used for evil purposes shows evil of a person or entity. It is not a true reflection of us by any means. You could compare our beginnings to a rodeo person that throws a rope around a beast. It was tackled. It had to be. No one could stop it. It was spreading everywhere. Powerfully and quickly it overtook everything. They would not let our ancestors have the Bible. That was only for the clergy to have and to teach. It was that way for a long time. King James had the Bible mass printed for everyone in 1611. I like to think that God wanted the Bible for everyone. So there are paper books and the press.

Some create cults. Those are the greatest religious disasters that could be. Some of their leaders are war-like. Some are perverted, some are power hungry, most are on incredible ego trips. They begin to believe they are Jesus Christ and the thought overwhelms them. So they go about as God's gift to the earth and bring in large numbers of followers who want nothing more than to sit beside "Jesus." These people end in mass suicide and live isolated and deprived lives up until then. They must come to know the afterlife as a paramount thing with everything in this world taken from

them, so naturally things go that way for them. Yet the Bible says it very plainly: Jesus is not going to come as he did the first time. His return will not be living a life in this place or that. He returns suddenly with all of the angels of Heaven behind him.

We can be ascetic if we want to be but when it starts to become self destructive then it is going the perfectly wrong way. That becomes a trap at some point, laid by the follower themselves, to which they fall into. We don't walk out just to be homeless in hopes of it bringing us closer to God. We don't starve ourselves. We fast. Some will mistake the two but the two are totally different things. On the other hand I guess I can understand how a person would safely put themselves on a cross to gain a better understanding of how it must have been. They don't drive stakes into their hands however. If it is true (this is not in the Bible however) Peter requested that his crucifixion be upside down because he did not want to die as his savior did. He felt unworthy of it.

Dangers Of The Occult

There is no "making friends" from demons. There is no help to be found from them. They don't care about those who summon them. They are not going to show themselves in physical form when they are brought up. They aren't going to speak to those who pull them up. Yet they are brought up, and things get dangerous in their lives for those who do. Satanic forces can be small and weak or great and powerful. Witnesses say that Hitler seemed possessed by demons. He would moan in agony, talk in strange ways, and say incoherent things while alone. He was known to have dabbled in the occult. His Nazi regime did as well. He was brought under a very powerful spell, under a very powerful Satanic force.

Uses of the occult do not have to be so deliberate. It is found where it is celebrated, like in movies, books, and games. These fantasy characters are drawn out like idols. They are inhuman, even demonic looking sometimes. You might even see idolatry in a trademark. It is all accidental use of the occult or use of the occult that is just not so direct. It is still using the occult, however.

Some Christians don't believe in demonic possession or sorcery but it is discussed in the Bible. Jesus drove out demons. Demons seem to leave Christians alone. Not always though. They might take the purest Christian they can and give them riches and fame so that they neglect or even denounce God. They bring out agents against Christianity, usually misusing our faith and tainting our name. They'd misdirect us. They'd send us the wrong way. They'd toy with us. They'd do their best to make religions that outdo

Christianity and guide many away at once. They'd have everyone put nature over God. Those are their typical plows.

Things like Satanic metal music brings evil spirits into the world. That's so when listeners engage in it and become emotionally involved. They'd practice magic not knowing why it isn't producing anything for them (or else "just enough" to have them continue.) Again, why would these demons show and speak to any of these people? Yet through them they are released into the world.

These demons know who Jesus Christ is, as they were created to know and worship God. They have defied that but it remains a part of their nature. They know the power that Jesus Christ has. They don't want to be thrown into the void or some terrible place. So Christians have the power of Christ over them. You will know them from the demented way they speak. Not so much growls as strange accents. They have a very demented way of sounding. Their accents are like a strange use of words, as the best I can put it. That's because they use words differently from us. They are far uninhibited. They have strange body movements to them. The flesh is strange to them. They sort of move about freely. They are not stiff in their demeanor. They come off as childish. They come across as lower intelligence but in fact are higher in intelligence. You could say that their intelligence is different from ours. Things are more this way than they are like a little girl in bed with supernatural things happening all around. They are animals when it comes to pleasure. More so, in fact. Things like pleasure from food are far more pronounced in them.

That's how you can identify them and what to do about them.

A Program To Become Holy

Here are things that make up the path in becoming a more righteous person. Call it Holy, Righteous, a good Christian, or whatever you want. This is flexible to some extent.

First, come to know The New Testament really well. That should not be difficult. The New Testament is a small book. It contains greater knowledge than any other book, too. You don't have to memorize the verse numbers. That just takes up effort better used elsewhere. You can easily get an idea of where what is in the Bible however. You might be helped with visual things. If you do not feel you fully grasp what certain content is, then you can look it up online.

Grab and control any negative or painful emotions. Learn to choose to not be angry. Take control over your personal urges. Discontinue having hateful thoughts. Try to have a positive understanding of people all you can. That means things like favoring them and giving them the benefit of the doubt. It means to understand why they are the way they are. It means to have a greater acceptance of people overall. If you sin more while you are in one group or another then it is better to either be alone or leave your social circumstances to the church.

Work on yourself. Gain less selfish perspectives. Be proud of being a child of God however, knowing that God comes first. Pray just enough every day. Read the Bible a little every day (or a lot every day if it is new to you.) Learn the way you would. You might get a daily devotional book (such as Streams in the Desert, that's a good one.) So you will be sure you read a little every day. There is also the one year bible. In a year you would have read it all. The Bible is made up of stories that are easy to remember. The books of the prophets are easy to remember too. You can read over the whole thing once and remember most of it. Watch visually told Bible things if that works well for you. Then there are video programs which say one scripture after another that you can watch. That is all that is: a little music, one verse then another on TV. And remember there is a lot to understand. Things are not so black and white in the Bible. Rather, a small amount means a lot. It has depth to it. So we all need help in understanding things further.

Remove yourself from bad company and bad influences. They will not do you any good in this life or this path you are on. They could make a wreck in your life. As well as you can, keep your company with good Christians.

Follow the hard parts of the Bible, not just the easier things. Christianity wasn't made to be the easy route through life. It was made to be your stronger and stronger making path. So it tells us to turn the other cheek and to love our enemy and we must take those things seriously.

With as many good reasons you have to be Christian you will remain so. So look for the good reasons behind everything within it. Put your heart into the treasure of Heaven over the treasure of the earth. Put your heart into God and God's kingdom. Don't be distracted by worldly things. Reject worldly things. Consider your Bible to have

everything you need to learn in life. Don't become involved or invested in worldly matters.

Be strong and determined in the faith, rejecting every bad thing and turning to every good thing. Make your belief paramount. Be a wise Christian however, knowing that it is needed sometimes (as opposed to taking a certain thing literally.) Don't misguide yourself. It is not always an exact way of doing things. Things are conditional, sometimes.

Be content with who you are. Ours is not a path to perfection. Not in our typical understanding of "perfection" anyway. We are made perfect through God. Through Jesus Christ our sins are no more regarded. However, if we really have God in us then we will not continue to sin:

Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. 1 John 3:6.

Those with God simply turn away from sin. If Jesus Christ is living in our hearts then we will turn against sin. As for the rest, there is always the sermon on the mount. It sums up Christianity. It is found in Matthew chapter 5 (the whole chapter) which ends by saying: "Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect."

About Heaven

There is a lot to be said with just a little: in Heaven there will be no pain and suffering and in Heaven we will rest with God.

We wouldn't have hunger then. We would die from starvation. That would fix a great deal of problems in the world. Our bodies wouldn't tire out. We wouldn't need to replenish our energy. We wouldn't become exhausted. We could walk as far as we want to for those two reasons. We could be up day and night not so much sleeping as resting.

We'd not need surgery or doctors. We would never again have to worry about the mortal state of our bodies.

The Bible says we will be given a home of our own made just for us. For some that means total privacy and for others it means total socializing. For some that means lots

of room and for others a modest amount. For some it is one location and for others another. In all cases, they are perfect for us just as God has intended. We will live out our eternal lives there and in the new world. As for “the new world and the new heaven” it will be here on earth. God is returning to establish his earthly kingdom. It is said to be a magnificent looking place.

I hope that life is just like it is here, only better and without suffering or death. I mean, it will be like that second one, but that first one: that we still do our things. That we still can live like humans live. That our science and technology is perhaps enhanced by God. We have more of the same in other words only without the curse part of our existence. The Bible alludes to it. It is not at all without basis. We will continue to live like humans live only with God being here with us. Like the garden of eden in a way. They lived like humans only they were meant to live forever.. Without any pain or suffering. When they went against God’s will then God sent them out into the harsh world where they were now prey to thorns and thistles.

Will we have our family with us? What about eating and drinking? What about personal projects and living out our purpose? Would there be something like universal basic income? Imagine the prisons throughout the world, those would be torn down. Wouldn’t need those anymore. Maybe God brings with Him the tech needed for perfectly operating self driving vehicles. Maybe God and His angels are beings in outer space. That’s what “heaven” means, doesn’t it? That is why I believe it is an alien race sort of thing and some Christians say that Ezekiel described a spaceship. Maybe we could sum up the greatest possibilities of science fiction and know that God will bring them into reality. From which a utopia is formed. To live a thousand years over, perhaps, a hundred, with our whole family with us. To see our grandparents again, lost loved ones, people who just went their separate ways earlier in our lives. I hope and pray it is all so.

20 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, 21 nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.” Luke 17:20-21 NIV.

Little Gifts, Greater Gifts

God loves a cheerful giver.. Cheerful, without reluctance, without compulsion:

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ESV.

In other words, the more you give the more is returned to you, just as Jesus also said:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38 KJV.

When I first set my heart to mailing out gifts to my family I had feelings of wanting to have had that money for myself instead. After a year of doing it however I had no more doubt that it was something I wanted to do: for every birthday, Christmas, mother's day, and father's day. That is something that you can never lose. I can have all kinds of things of my own yet lose them all in a turn of bad events. The gifts you give stand forever. I especially enjoy giving gifts to the children of my family knowing just how much they enjoy things over adults.

I came from a gift giving family. I came from a Christian family. Who knows how things may have been without the Christianity in my family. Probably a lot worse. My family is Christian however. We celebrated holidays and went on vacations and it was money well spent. I think that holidays, happy times out, and birthdays, are all money best spent.

I like the idea that what gift I give can last and last a long time. It will go further than the person you give it to. What I mean is something like it becoming a hand me down. Someone younger gets it. It may go in the direction of becoming a desired collectable. Then it is sold online to a buyer who wants to add it to their collection. It could be more or less valuable to them and they leave it to someone else and so on. It may wind up in a flea market. Might be in a garage sale or two. Anyways, I like the idea that the one gift I give will come into the possession of many different people for who knows how long.

Thinking back to my youth, I wonder where all of my old video games went. Those have become a lot more collectable than comic books. People want them in the box and all of that. I can say that I left them clean and intact. My old Mega Man 4, Ninja Gaiden 2 game, and NES console. I wonder where they are today and where they have been.. A child probably enjoyed them at first. They rise in value though, so much that they are no longer things for children. So they may be on someone's book shelf along with other

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