

Abiding in Christ

When Christians talk about work-life balance, Matthew chapter 16 verse 26, which says “What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” is often quoted. But, how does one not “lose one's soul”?

I'll begin with some background info. Genesis chapter 2 tells us that God put spirit in body and created man, a living soul. Genesis chapter 3 tells of the broken relationship between God and man. The rest of the Old Testament tells of man's futile attempts to restore that relationship as he tries to obey a series of ordinances and commandments.¹

In the New Testament we see God, in His Grace, sending His Son²; for if we abide in the Son we will have the same relationship with God, the Father, that the Son has with Him. Man will be back home, no longer a lost soul.

Abiding in Christ means believing Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to repair mankind's broken relationship with God. The cost of the repair: His death on the cross; the evidence of the repair: His resurrection...this is faith in the Gospel.³

Abiding in Christ demands returning control of one's soul to God; no longer my way, now Christ's way... this is repentance.⁴

Abiding in Christ requires immersing oneself fully in Christ; all that I am, body and spirit... this is baptism.⁴

Abiding in Christ means having the Holy Spirit living within, transforming through the Word, prayer, praise, fellowship, the giving of ourselves, aligning our will to the will of God, producing fruit of the Spirit... this is faithfulness.⁵

And so ... it is of profit when job, finances, possessions, life passions are all used in Abiding in Christ, ... being back home, no longer a lost soul.

Footnotes:

1. Acts chapter 13 verses 38 to 39: Therefore my friends I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through Him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.
2. John chapter 3 verse 16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
3. 1st letter to the Corinthian Christians, chapter 15 verses 1 to 4: Now brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the Gospel I preached to you ... by this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached you. Otherwise you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures ...
4. Acts chapter 2 verses 36 to 38: "God has made this Jesus whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah". When the people heard this they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."
5. Romans chapter 15 verse 13: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.