

# *The Profits of This World*

*Posted by Dr. Gary H. Cote on March 25, 2006*

"What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul" (Mark 8:36)? What a question Christ placed before all generations, even over all time. This is an eternal question! Certainly this is not one that can be answered with the temporal parameters of this world; this existence we are operating our lives within. To ask someone this question on this side of the death event, a person could have much to say about all things we can obtain by working hard, working smart, being shrewd, and accumulating possessions to "enjoy life." However, thinking of death (which is never enjoyable) a person must really take this question to heart. No one ever took what they have obtained with him! No one ever enjoyed the "fruits of his labor" after death. Whether it was land, homes, reputation, position, or relationships; it all stays here! This eternal question is asking for an answer that extends beyond the grave. Do you want a profit that eternally rewards?

Truly interesting, Christ is the one who used the word "profit." The question provokes us to think of the idea of profit. Christ was not against profit. He is offering a profit that supersedes, i.e., transcends, the rewards of this life. He is offering a profit that carries great benefit to you who believe. The Bible even encourages that the reward for faith in Christ is greater than anything a person could ever get or achieve in this world.

Christ used the word "profit" and He also set the example for us; He said and demonstrated, pick up your cross, deny yourself, and follow Me. This does not sound very rewarding; however, faith sees the promised eternal rewards, and knows God's Word is true. Faith lives for the rewards of the Kingdom to come!

Be encouraged knowing your labors in the faith are not in vain! Live for the promises of God!

May the Grace of God enable you to live out His purpose for your life!