

# CONCLUSION

## Your Opportunity for an Easy Escape

You have been shackled to greed long enough. Your long dark days of worry can end right now. You have learned to recognize materialism for what it is: an empty worldview that leads to oppression, discrimination, long, unrewarded hours of labor, and ultimate self-destruction. You have learned that even Christians are susceptible to materialism, but that Jesus Christ, the true Head of the Church, is infallible, perfect, and unailing. Keeping our eyes upon Him, we find the strength and conviction to live free though others pressure us to conform to worldly values.

You have learned that in Christ you are never alone. You need not look at your bank account and assets for evidence of your value, for God looks at your heart. If He dwells within you, He will do good things in you for the rest of your life. What He has begun, He will not stop until He has finished (Philippians 1:6).

Invite the Lord into your heart today and be free. The choice is yours. Continue the rat race, working for wealth you cannot keep to pay off creditors as you buy stuff you cannot afford. Or give your life to Jesus and escape a life of unending financial burden and fruitless self-sacrifice. If you continue to live as a materialist, you will never be able to buy or earn your way out of the vicious cycle of this worldview, for the materialistic outlook leads to emptiness you may already feel. In Christ, however, we are immediately fulfilled.

Here are some parting thoughts to encourage you to accept the Lord into your heart.

- Christ gives us the right to be God's children: "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).
- He calls us His friends: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).
- We live at peace with the Lord: "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

## YOUR OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EASY ESCAPE

- We are one in spirit with Him: “He who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:17).
- We are called saints and gain direct access to God through the Holy Spirit: “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: . . . Through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit” (Ephesians 1:1; 2:18).
- We are free from condemnation, so whatever the world threatens, it cannot touch us because we belong to Jesus: “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:1, 2).
- We gain a love from which we cannot be separated, even in our myriad failures: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35–39).
- Once slaves to the world, we are now citizens of heaven, already in fellowship with the Lord our God: “Our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20).
- He gives us peace forever, as well as for the moment, a sound mind and a gentle love to guide us all our days: “God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).
- When we are in need, we know we can “boldly” approach God’s throne and receive undeserved kindness and grace: “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

In Christ, we are fully justified and declared righteous. However flowery its prose, any manifesto the world provides to justify the

*THE COUNTERFEIT WEALTH*

pursuit of worldly gain cannot hold a candle to what the Lord promises us through His infallible Word. The evidence against the materialist worldview is insurmountable. The only wealthy lifestyle is lived in Christ, a life He chose for you before you were born. You can invite the Lord into your heart right now and have the peace and affirmation that millions of successful, wealthy men and women work for their entire lives, but never obtain.