

The Non-Christian Loss
08-04-19

What happens when members of the church need to move? They call on brethren. I have moved several times and not even rented a truck; brethren show up to help. Where do you go for help moving without a church family? Non-believers miss a lot more than just help moving things.

Sometimes we believers look at unbelievers (non-Christians, fallen Christians or false Christians) and wish for a moment to have the things they do. They forsake the assembly and have a whole extra day in the week! They don't worry about making sure that they vacation or live in a place where there is a sound church. They don't worry about watching things on TV.

1. Your prayers are not being heard

Even the most godless of people sometimes cry out for help. Many who are only nominal in their respect of God offer prayers to God. But the bible is quite clear on this idea; God is not listening to them. "*Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.*" (John 9:31). This is a truth repeated often in the Bible (Psalm 66:18, Proverbs 1:28-29, etc.). But there is another truth that parallels this: God DOES hear His own. *The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry* (Psalm 34:15). This is because those who are in Christ may petition the Father in the name of Jesus (John 16:23).

2. Your sufferings are in vain

Unbelievers don't have the hope to say "things happen for a reason". The reason is not for them. They suffer and it does not aid them (Ga 3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain). Yet the believer is promised that our suffering has value, and that we gain from it favor from God. All men suffer in life (1 Cor. 10:13); only Christians benefit from sufferings (2 Cor. 4:17, James 1:2-3). Only a Christian can have a terrible experience but have the hope that something good may come of it. We alone a promised a return for our investment of sorrow.

3. God is not on your side

David once wrote "*unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain*" (Ps 127:1). God watches with favor the works of the hands of the righteous. He is with us when we are opposed by the world. But the unbeliever has no such advocate. They cannot have any real confidence for success in life.

4. The future is something that is worrisome to the non-believer

In Deuteronomy 28:48 God spoke of how he would bring famine and starvation to those who strayed. But the righteous are promised that deprivation will not affect them. ONLY the Christian has a promise:

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25). David saw this truth when he said *I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.* (Psalm 37:25).

5. You do not have the family of God

Unbelievers understand the idea of family and fellowship. They have families in the flesh, and associations that create a type of fellowship. But it is a distant second to the family of God. Human families fight and break and die (seen many times in the bible). Human associations come to an end (in my family, my father and brother were firefighters. That fellowship was strong, but it dried up almost immediately when they retired). Paul said that when we were unbelievers, we were cut off from the family of God (Ephesians 2:12). But when we become believers, we were joined to the household of faith (Ephesians 2:19). The family of God is vast, and cannot walk away because of its design. It is built to bear burdens and offer aid to its members (Gal. 6:2, etc.). We cannot and do not walk away when it gets hard. We are family until the very end.

6. Everything they accomplish is meaningless

Psalm 39:6 says *Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them.* Everything that a non-believer does in life is empty. Even achieving the greatest of success is meaningless. We see this proven in the many worldly people who, having everything, end their own lives. Non-believers labor for empty things; even if they have success, it is nothing. But for us, our labors are NOT in vain; this is true of ANY work we accomplish. We are a success even in the most menial of tasks and labors.

7. Death is the most terrifying thing imaginable

Here is of course the most obvious and important thing that an unbeliever does not have: Hope of life after death. For the unbeliever, death is (or at least should be) a terrifying expectation. The Hebrew writer said that those without hope have certain fiery expectations in their judgment (Heb. 10:26-27). They are without hope (1 Thes. 4:13). Yet we in Christ have a magnificent hope in death (Phil. 1:21), and have a reason to believe that what comes after death is greater than life (2 Tim. 4:8).

Sometimes believers look at the ease of life of the unbeliever and become envious. David said as much in Psalm 73. But David went on to say that his envy ended when he *“went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end”* (Ps. 73:17). Don't even *start* envying the lost. Believers have so much more than them. Their minor betterments are empty, short lived and bring them greater grief. Instead, rejoice in the benefits of Christ. This joy will anchor your hope