

God's Benefit Package

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While salary is obviously important, job hunters know that benefits can be equally or more important. Health insurance, paid vacation, retirement, sick days, and other considerations may tip the scale as to whether one accepts an employer's offer.

Becoming a Christian isn't a perfect parallel to being employed, so don't make more of this illustration than you should. God doesn't "owe" us anything for working for Him! Nevertheless, by His grace He provides valuable benefits to His willing servants. That was true even under the Law of Moses. David exclaimed, "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His **benefits***" (Psalm 103:2). Psalm 116:12 rhetorically asks, "*What shall I render to the Lord for all His **benefits** toward me?*"

Do we recognize and appreciate the benefits of being a Christian? Let's start with the most obvious one: **forgiveness of sins**. God washed us completely clean in the blood of the Lamb. Our debt is paid in full!

That naturally results in **eternal life**. We have a new life in Christ now, and we know that when our physical life ends, we will continue to live with the Lord.

In the meanwhile, we enjoy the privilege of **prayer**. Through our mediator, Jesus Christ, we can approach the Father's throne of grace boldly, knowing that He will hear and answer in whatever way is best according to His infinite wisdom and love.

These benefits are but the beginning of a virtually endless list of advantages Christians have. And remember, we earned none of them. Our loving Father provides them by His grace.

What other benefits can you list?

Swift Transition

We should need but little reminder about the transient nature of life. We rush about in a frenzied state of chaos, without realizing that our every move is dictated by the clock. One day we may awaken to discover that life has passed us by, and the things which we once counted so dear and for which we labored so mightily have faded into insignificance. Indeed, "Time is filled with swift transition," and its passing should cause us to change our perspective about what is truly important in life.

William James is attributed with having said, "The greatest use of life is to spend it on that which will outlast it." Scripture exhorts us to make the most of our opportunities (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5). But how can we make the most of our time if we expend all our energy on things related to the "here and now" while investing very little on matters related to the next life?

Why not live for the eternal God? Why not practice the greatest virtue – the everlasting virtue of love? (1 Corinthians 13:13). Why not be devoted to prayer offered to the Father through Jesus who lives forever "*to make intercession for us*"? (Heb. 7:25; Col. 4:2). Why not read the only words which will "*never pass away*" (Mt. 24:35). Only when we spend our time and energy on these matters of everlasting importance will we be prepared for that day when time will be no more.

--Glen Elliott (Greenbriar, AR)

RIGHT JOB DONE RIGHT

Efficiency means getting the job done right.

Effectiveness means getting the right job done.

Excellence means getting the right job done right.

--via *Bulletin Gold*

A Pack of Seeds

*I bought myself a pack of seeds,
To grace my garden fair,
And stuck them in my pocket.
For months they waited there.
And when the time had come to see
The flower's lovely face,
I thought it strange that only weeds
Were growing in their place.
How foolish then, oh Christian man,
God's Word, you have indeed.
You carry it or hide it
But do not plant the seed.
No fruit there grows in garden fair,
Unless the seed you sow.
For if the Word of God you plant,
Then God will make it grow.*

--Charles G. Ramsey (via *Bulletin Gold*)

The early Christians were not fed to wild beasts or dipped in wax and set ablaze as lamps in Nero's garden because they thought Jesus was a helpful life coach or role model, but because they bore witness to Him as the only Lord and Savior of the world.

(Michael Horton, via Facebook)