

“Only one life, ‘twill soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.”

ONLY WHAT’S DONE FOR CHRIST

by Craig Marlatt

I was at the mall recently with my little daughter Kristy, shopping for a birthday present for my mother, when I happened to pass by a store front stock brokerage firm that is located in that shopping mall. Inside, a handful of anxious investors fixed their eyes upon a large computerized read-out of the day’s stock activities as they travelled across the computer display screen at what seemed to me to be a lightning pace. Transfixed by the blinking red lights on that machine many of them were probably watching much of their savings and possibly their future dwindle right before their eyes with little or no power to do anything about it. “How foolish,” I thought, “to trust in uncertain riches.”

As Kristy and I walked past the window and headed through the mall I realized how glad I am that I have Jesus Christ as my security and treasure, and that the investments which I have made in the Kingdom of God will not rise and fall with the tides of men. I agree with the apostle Paul when he wrote, “. . .for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12).

In my own life, the desire to be useful for the Lord, and to help others come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour has not been without a price. Neither has it been easy for my wife and children to follow me as I follow Christ. And yet the sacrifice and challenge always seems so small when compared to the promised glory and blessing to those who are willing to lay down their own lives for the sake of the gospel. Many along the way have gotten excited with us and believed God to do great things. Others have wondered why we would want to live in the ghetto among the street people, or leave the comforts of life in America to go into a far away place where things are so different from that to which we have become accustomed. I can only say that I am compelled from within to do so. “Only one life ‘twill soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.”

In a time when many of God’s people are settling down and counting their blessings nearly half of the people in the world have never heard the name of Jesus! When I see in my mind the faces of those multitudes I realize how unimportant my own ambitions and plans are in comparison to God’s love and concern for these little ones. To me, America is the greatest place in the world, but I serve the One who said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” When I took his Holy Spirit baptism I also took his mandate to “Go ye into all the world and make disciples of all nations.”

I don’t know whether or not the Stock Market will crash or flourish, what commodities you should invest in, or whether you should buy gold or silver for your investment portfolio. I do know this: if you give your future to Christ, He will give his future to you. Not a bad deal is it?

I don’t know whether or not the Stock Market will crash or flourish, what commodities you should invest in, or whether you should buy gold or silver for your investment portfolio. I do know this: if you give your future to Christ, He will give his future to you. Not a bad deal is it?

I remember the words of a minister friend of mine, Rev. Fred Beard, who passed

on to be with the Lord just a few years ago. He once told me, “ Craig, When you give your life in service to Jesus you can throw away your calendar and your Geography book. He may take you anywhere, anytime.” I also remember the little plaque next to the doorbell of another missionary friend who is now serving in Asia: “Only one life ‘twill soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.”