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EDITOR'S

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Christmas is here again. Do you have problems buying gifts for someone who has everything? The Holy Bible mentions such people in Luke 9:25, *“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?”*

Many people I believe would love to be in this position of owning the whole world or at least a commanding part of it. However they do not realize that the saying: “absolute power corrupts absolutely” (Lord Acton) generally comes as a result.

If at this present moment you are a humble man, would you still be so when you have all the money in the world? Won't having all that money make you proud, change your character, make you do things you would not have done when you were poor? If having all that money will not change you, as you remain in your simple HDB home, taking public transport and generally eating at the hawker centres, then why hanker to be rich?

Listen to what the Bible says, *“But godliness with **contentment** is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be **content** with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.”* (1 Timothy 6:6-9)

If you ask a rich man how much is enough, what would he reply? The multimillionaire, John D. Rockefeller, answered quite transparently, “Just a little bit more.” In other words, “I will never have enough.” What did he fail to have – contentment!

My dear friends, at this Christmas time there is a great gift given to man from God. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever **believes** in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* (John 3:16-17)

This is the Good News and this is the gift I want to give to you. Know that God loves you and had sent Jesus into this world more than 2000 years ago to show His love for you. Jesus came into this world to save everyone, and that includes you. Receive this gift, *"Yet to all who received him, to those who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"* (John 1:12) . I am not here to give you convincing proofs of God's existence or proofs of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, you can borrow many books on these topics written by more capable writers. I am asking you to believe in faith, *"without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6). Receive this gift, this Christmas.

Paul further admonished Timothy, *"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their **hope in God**, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."* (1Timothy 6:17-19)

I can imagine it is great to be number one but without contentment you will feel like a failure. Even if you won 5 gold medals, you still feel like you failed because you did not get 6 gold medals. My dear friends learn *"to be content whatever the circumstances."* (Philippians 4:11b) *Receive by faith, Jesus as Saviour and Lord, "and my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19)

As another year passes away and a new one comes along, I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, joy and love.

*"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you **believe** in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your **faith**, the salvation of your souls."* (1Peter 1:8-9)

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