

There are 16 verses in the New Testament where the word **Gain** is used. In all, it can be found 17 times in our New Testament. One of the ways it is used, that most people talk about, is in:

Matthew 16:24-26 KJV Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. <u>For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?</u> or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

There is another use of this word Gain, that a whole lot of people do not like to talk about. It is used in:

Philippians 1:21-24 KJV — For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

There is an old saying, "Everyone wants to go to Heaven, but no one wants to die to get there".

n one place, it is used to describe our **temporary gain** of things here on Earth. In the other place, it is used to describe the home-going and **eternal Gain** of God's Children. In another place, it is used to describe the **things gained by our labor** for about 70 years of work. The finished work, of our Lord Jesus provides for the kind of **Gain** that will last forever.

The really strange thing about these two uses of the word **Gain** is, that the actual word is the same. It is how that we go about our lives as to what we actually **gain**. When we consider, that it will be the consequences of our actions, then it becomes very real as to what is our best choice. Dear friends, eternity is forever. 70 years will pass very quickly, then it is onto our real place in eternity. People do not go to Hell because they are rich or intelligent. People go to Hell when they get to busy in this life, to take time to trust and live for Christ. One of the prime examples of this is found in the Gospel of Luke.

(Luke 12:15-21 KJV) And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

The older that I get, the less I desire of this world. It seems as if God is fixing my heart on Heaven. The older I live, the fewer there are left of people that are of my own age. Most of my real friends, have gone on to be with Jesus. There are times, that I say, like the Apostle Paul, "to die is gain". Old age can be wonderful, but Heaven is greater.



Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:24