

Think about it! (1)

Are you tired of living? Life these days is pretty stressful, isn't it? It's hard to explain – thanks to all the advances in technology and so on, we have better-trained doctors, more and more sophisticated machines, shorter working-hours (well, in theory at least!), more time for ourselves, more purchasing-power than ever before, a wider variety of products and entertainment to choose from, etc. But...are we any happier? On the 'down' side, it seems that we're constantly being rushed off our feet, personal relationships seem to last less and less and at times you feel like a prisoner of some kind of fair-ground ride which starts off being great fun, but which doesn't let you get off when you want to. And the end result? The existential paradox: life seems to offer more and more, but satisfies less and less.

Maybe that was what Jesus Christ meant when he said, "**What does it profit a man [or a woman] to gain the whole world and lose his [or her] soul?**" (Gospel of Mark, chapter 8, verse 36). In other words, what's the point of building up a pile of stuff, and 'living' your life working, eating and 'having a good time', if you feel empty inside, and if the things that really matter to you: your family, your friends and your values, etc., end up disappearing? The Master's words are not so far off the mark, are they? And millions of people, most of them without much in the way of the 'advantages' of a more-or-less comfortable life, have discovered, even in the middle of their poverty, their drudgery, their problems and their loneliness, a message of real hope and a life of real meaning. They're called Christians!

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