

# Advantages of Putting Christ in First Place

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Every Christian would do well to evaluate whether he or she is distracted from Christ or dedicated to Christ. Of the things that force Jesus out of first place, four popular alternatives will be examined in light of how they may be removed as distractions and turned into advantages.

## Fame

The dedicated Christian labors secure in the confidence that his name is written in heaven. In the book of Hebrews Christians are come “to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect” (Heb. 12:23). This truth is a source of rejoicing. Jesus once told his disciples, “Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven” (Lk. 10:20). Christians are seeking not the praise of men but of God, “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God” (Rom. 2:28-29). No place exists in the universe where a person wants to be better known than before the throne of God.

## Fortune

The riches of this world pale into insignificance when compared with the rewards of being a child of God. Paul wrote, “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Rom. 8:17). A few chapters later he exclaimed, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” (Rom. 11:33). The greatest fortune of the universe is with God, “For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for

as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:1-3).

## Fun

No joy on earth equals that of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. It is available even during the deepest trials of earth. Consider the joy of Christ, “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2).

## Family

Jesus is not ashamed to call Christians his brethren (Heb. 2:11). God is not ashamed to have Christians call him their God (Heb. 11:16). The reason is because when they obeyed the gospel the Lord added them to his church, which is his family (Acts 2:47; Eph. 3:15). What a great blessing to be a member of the family of God! Paul wrote about it in II Corinthians 6:16-18, “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

## Conclusion

The Christian life contains unfathomable riches in eternity and the abundant life here (Jn. 10:10; 14:1-3). Let’s not be distracted from things divine but ever increase our dedication to Christ.