

+ Underground Hope +

? For in this Hope we were saved! - Romans 8:24

O

MISSION: To spread the truth and *gospel* of Jesus Christ in a world that has rejected and trampled on the hope of *salvation*. To show the *grace* of God which has been given to us on the cross of Calvary by our dear Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. To correct our brothers and sister in error, and to *end the heresies* that torment **Christianity**. All in the sweet name of *Jesus Christ*.

The One Step Guide to **SUCCESS**—Jesus *Christ!*

Make a Million Dollars and More in only a half hour!

A Significant Return

Show me the money!
Show **me** the money!!
Show **me** the money!!!

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." - **Matthew 19:23-24***

Money is nice. It paid for this paper. It paid for this ink. It paid for the printer. It paid my hospital bills when I was born, it'll pay the mortuary bills when I die. It bought me my toys, and it'll pay to for their disposal. Money... It's love to so many, and yet it rapes them.

So many people find so much glory in money, and other tangible things. People start relying on worldly things and believe that their success is in the fact that **they** have earned a lot of money. Their success is really the result of Satan tempting them away from God and towards themselves.

No matter what happens to us in this world we need to realize that we will only succeed through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the light of the world, shining down on us the rocks. He is a pillar to all. He is the foundation that will never shift. If what you want is of this world, then your heart will shine just like a burnt out light bulb, but if what you want is of Christ Jesus, then your heart will shine like a lighthouse on the rocky people that break the waves of the truth.

Success from Satan can be seen in so many things: that car or computer you just bought that consumes all the time you once spent studying Scripture. Objects literally become idols in our lives, much like the instance of Elijah at Mount Carmel. Elijah faced Israelites whose objects of worship were physical objects, ones they could hold.

In our Christian lives we will always succeed when we deliver the glory to God, which He rightfully deserves.

*All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. - **John 17:10***

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, - **Romans 3:23***

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. - **1st Corinthians 10:31***

*He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. - **2nd Thessalonians 2:14***

Everything and anything we have has been given to us from God and we are to remember that. When we forget that, we forget it because of our sinful nature. We forget it because Satan wants us to think about him instead.

Everything exists for the glory of God and should be used for the strengthening of the church. This issue talks about success, and how true success comes only from the Lord.

In the last issue we talked about applying the Bible to our daily lives, and one of the ways we talked about doing that was through prayer. Prayer could single handedly be the most powerful thing that we as humans have on this earth. Through prayer we are capable of communicating to God and offering him our petitions.

Has someone ever crossed you the wrong way and it just really bothered you? Have you ever told that person you'd pray for them? If you have then I bet that they were surprised by the response. When someone hurts you and you tell them that you'll pray for them, they always seem shocked. The idea that despite this terrible thing they did you can still manage to love them is amazing! Prayer works in incredible ways.

Succeeding is directly related to prayer. Every person who succeeds has a mentor, a guide. A Christian's mentor and guide is Jesus Christ. Using prayer we can get our counseling session with God. The nice part of this is we don't have to follow Freud's 55 minute rule.

In modern day society prayer has become second rate, last on the list. How many people pray every night before they go to bed? How many people pray before they sit down at a meal? How many people pray when they wake up in the morning? The majority of Americans don't pray. Most people forget; I can even attest to that. Dr. Phillip Paschal says this about prayer:

*Introduction: of all the things that are of significant value in our lives, prayer should be cherished the most. However, my brothers and my sisters, I have discovered that for many of us prayer is often relegated to the bottom of our priority list. We live in an age where Christians will spend more time in gossip than we do in prayer. We spend more time on the internet than we do in prayer. We spend more time investing our money than we do in prayer. We spend more time landscaping our homes than we do in landscaping our prayer life. We invest more time polishing our cars than we do polishing our prayer life. But I must remind you today, that all of these tangible items cannot sustain you in the midst of tribulation. Physical possessions are temporal and can vanish in the twinkling of an eye. But prayer provides spiritual maintenance for the upkeep of our souls. So if there is anything of value in this world it is the significance of prayer. (Dr. Phillip Paschal, **The Significance Of Prayer: Luke 18:1**)*

Dr. Paschal brings up a very important point, one which has already been mentioned. It's easy to slip and let physical things replace our prayer life. If the 3.3 million independent business owners of Amway Corporation devoted half their time spent selling products to praying instead, what do you think would happen to Amway's success percentage? Spirituality is a key, but spirituality **with Christ** is a necessity. I saw a bumper sticker on the road a couple of days ago that said, "Returning the values back to America." I wondered if that driver had been praying recently.

After September 11th, people felt helpless. Their dreams of success weren't working out, so they turned to prayer. Now that things have calmed down and much order has restored, we've drifted away from prayer again. When will we return?

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May 28th, 2002 In the Year of our Lord

What is True Success?

Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' **Luke 16:19-31**

There are few people alive today who don't care how successful they are in life, as measured by worldly standards. Most people in the United States, if not in the entire world, feel that, to make their lives worthwhile, they must be happy. They attempt to obtain this happiness by a variety of methods. Some try to earn lots of money so they can buy big houses, drive expensive cars, and wear elegant clothing. Others believe that they will be happy if they raise a nice family and have a modest income. Yet others feel that they will be happy if their children are better off - if they attend college and find a good job - than they were. All of these things, though, last only for the duration of life, and they don't necessarily bring the happiness many people think they do.

All of these things - money, nice houses, cars, clothing, a good education, and so forth - are nice to have. None of these things in and of themselves are wrong to have. The problem comes when people place their trust in these things and depend on them, when people make these things their goal in life. Each of these things may bring false happiness and enjoyment, but that pleasure never lasts past the end of one's life, nor is it *truly* satisfying. When we die we leave everything here behind and face God's judgment. Our actions, how much we have made, and the worldly possessions we have stored up on earth can't help us. If these are the things in which we place our hope and trust while here on earth, then that's all we'll ever get for all of eternity. On the other hand, trusting in Jesus will help us when we face judgment. If we place our hope and trust in Jesus Christ, we will receive the wonderful eternal blessings and true happiness found only with Him.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal

Matthew 6:19-20

What makes a person truly successful? Many people place their trust in wealth, but someone truly successful will place his trust in God. Not only then does he receive true happiness after death, but he can also feel secure in Jesus' arms while still here on Earth. He can live for God daily and continually receive the blessings He bestows only on those who obey Him.

Look at many wealthy people today - those who place their trust in their riches are often very unhappy deep down inside, though they don't admit it. In comparison, look at those who come close to dying and/or are persecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ - some of the happiest people in the world. These people have seen God's love, power, might and strength in times of trouble. They know what it feels like to be truly happy and content - not just on the outside but also deep down inside. We, too, can experience true joy by trusting in Jesus.

Now tell me who's truly successful - the man who dies rich but proud and dependent on his money, thinking he has no need for Jesus in his life. Or, the man who dies poor but humble and dependent on Jesus, living the Christ-like life the Bible commands us to live, trusting in Jesus for all his needs?

Devotional—Succeeding through Christ

O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success.

- Psalm 118:25

Wouldn't it be nice if we succeeded in everything that we did? Wouldn't it be great if every time we strove for something in our lives we obtained it?

Paul envisions people on a track, running the 400 Meter Dash, striving to reach the end. Each and every person gives it all they've got to reach the end. Why, though? Why is it so important to do your best, to reach the end? At the end is a prize, one that matters so much to the runner that it's worth giving everything up to reach it. A runner endures so much pain and physical discomfort in training for one race. The runner may throw out a knee, trip, hurt their foot, or experience any other sort of injury, but it is all worth it because it is a part of completing the race.

I have a friend that tried so hard for a hurdles race that on his way over a hurdle he missed. He chipped his hip, busted up his shoulder, and did a bunch of other damage that, generally speaking, didn't sound very appealing. Why, though? Why was he willing to take the risk of something like that happening? It was so that he could reach the end of those hurdles in a race, and win a prize. The prize might have been his name in the school announcements, or it could have possibly been a medal to wear around his neck. Regardless of what the prize was, he wanted it.

That urge, that power, that will for a goal is what every Christian needs in their daily lives.

*Do you not know that in a **race** all the **runners run**, but only one **gets the prize**? **Run** in such a way as to get the **prize**.*

- 1st Corinthians 9:24

Christians are faced with daily struggle, and daily martyrdom. Every day Christians suffer for what they believe in, and for what they know to be true. Is this success though? Is this what we signed up for? Is this what the Jesus thing is all about?

Let's look at the Apostle Peter's words: "Even if I have to **die** with You, I will not deny You." (Matthew 26:35) (Also read 1 Peter)

Now you may be saying... but he was an apostle, this is what he signed up for though, right? St. Peter signed up for the exact same thing that you and I did! Jesus Christ died for us; the least we could do is die for Him... right?

We succeed because of the death of Christ. We succeed because He died on the cross at Calvary and overcame sin, death, and the devil.

Success isn't about what you own, or what you've bought. Success is about Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross. It all goes back to this wonderful grace event where we were saved through faith! (Ephesians 2:8)

Go through your week, succeed in life. Remember Jesus Christ!

What are you doing this summer?

Over the summer *Underground Hope* will be available in e-mail format. We hope to make it biweekly filled with all the great content you're use to, plus a whole lot more. We'll be promoting our web site, encouraging posting on the message board, and writing extra articles and devotionals. Don't delay hurry up and subscribe now!

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Have questions about Jesus? Need answers and unsure where to look? We're willing to help you.

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