

Moving on to “Better” Things

Do you agree?

- Auburn University is better than University of Alabama.
- Ford is better than Chevy.
- Coke is better than Pepsi.
- Aliviah Buzan is better at lacrosse than Bryon Buzan, Jr.



CHEVROLET



Debatable?

- When WE say something or someone is better than another, we're often just expressing an opinion or a preference.
 - In many cases, we don't even have enough facts to say one is definitively better than the other.
- But when God says something is better, that's the end of the debate.

Better Things—According to God

- Many things are *better* than riches, including...
 - Words that come from God's mouth. Psa. 119:72.
 - The knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that come from these words. Prov. 3:13–14; 8:10–11, 19.
 - A good name, or reputation. Prov. 22:1.
 - Christ-like characteristics. 1 Tim. 6:10–11.

Better Things—According to God

- The poor man, who has these things, is *better* off than the rich man who does not.
 - Psa. 37:16; Prov. 15:16–17; 16:8, 19; 17:1; 28:6; Eccl. 4:6.

Better Things—According to God

- It is *better* to trust in God than to trust in man.
 - Psalms 118:8–9; 146:3–7.

Better Things—According to God

- It is *better* to go to the house of mourning (funeral) than to the house of feasting (party).
 - Ecclesiastes 7:2–4.

Better Things—According to God

- It is *better* to NOT make a promise, than to make a promise and not keep it.
 - Ecclesiastes 5:2–5; 1 Thess. 5:24.

Better Things—According to God

- A love that rebukes is *better* than a “love” that keeps quiet.
 - Proverbs 27:5; Ecclesiastes 7:5; Revelation 3:19.

Better Things—According to God

- What you have now is better than what you hope to have one day.
 - Materially speaking.
 - Ecclesiastes 6:9.

Better Things—According to God

- Ruling one's spirit is better than ruling a city.
 - Proverbs 16:32.

Better Things—According to God

- Two are better than one.
 - Ecclesiastes 4:7–12.
 - Husband–wife relationship: Proverbs 31:10–12; Song of Solomon 8:7.
 - Friendship in general. Proverbs 17:17; 27:9.

What would Paul have done without?

- Barnabas and Silas, two of his traveling companions.
- Phoebe, who was a helper to Paul (Rom. 16:1–2).
- Aquila and Priscilla, who risked their necks for Paul (Rom. 16:3–4).
- Timothy, like a son to him (1 Cor. 4:17; Phil. 2:19–24).
- Titus, who brought comfort to Paul when he was downcast (2 Cor. 7:6).
- Epaphroditus, who ministered to Paul while he was in prison (Phil. 2:25–30).
- Onesiphorus, who often refreshed Paul (2 Tim. 1:16)

Better Things—According to God

- The end of a thing is better than its beginning.
 - Ecclesiastes 7:8.
 - Childrearing: Prov. 22:6; 29:17; Heb. 12:11.
 - Prayer: Isaiah 40:27–31.
 - Enduring to the end as a Christian: 1 Pet. 1:3–9; Rev. 7:13–17; 22:1–4.