

“It Ruined My Life”

“This _____ (whatever *this* is- just fill in the blank) ruined my life.” People have problems. Sometimes the problems are imagined or over-estimated/inflated. Sometimes they are self-inflicted or at least self-perpetuated. Other times they are not only real and tragic, but inflicted on the truly innocent. **But, there is only one thing that “ruins” life- *your* life, *my* life, or *anyone’s* life:**

Missing Heaven.

I don’t say this minimize or trivialize anyone’s situation, or to indict the undeserving. But consider what the NT says about lives that are truly “ruined”...

- Luke 6:49. From the context, the “house” that was *ruined* was the **soul** of one who “*has heard, and has not acted accordingly,*” vv.46,49 (in contrast to one who *hears and acts,* vv.47-48).
- 1Cor.8:11. Others can certainly contribute to your potential *ruination*, but let’s be clear about what constitutes a “ruined” life: **missing heaven**.
- 1Tim.6:9. The “*ruin and destruction*” mentioned, unless I’m missing something, is not *financial*, or even the *physical consequences* of “*sowing to the flesh*”- as *ruinous* as those may be in temporal senses. Instead it is the “*ruin and destruction*” of eternal damnation separated from God.
- 2Tim.2:14. Again, the *ruination* is not just that *hears* are deluded and misled by, but that through such they miss out on the “*power of God for salvation*” provided in *hearing and obeying “the gospel,”* Rom.1:16; Titus 2:11-14.

So.... (And again, I don’t mean to *trivialize* these “problems”- just to demonstrate that they can’t “ruin your life” unless you forfeit your soul over them!)

- **Missing School Achievements can’t “ruin your life.”** Yes, it is sad that potential games and championships are not being played, graduations are not held, and great times with friends in what should have been “the best year of my life” are being missed. But these things are but “*momentary, light affliction*” when compared to heaven’s “*eternal weight of glory,*” 2Cor.4:17.
- **Financial loss can’t “ruin your life.”** I know that many have lost income, jobs, and even businesses due to circumstances beyond their control. Such is truly tragic, and we ought to help one another as the Scripture teaches, Acts 4:32ff. However, financial loss can’t “ruin your life” for a simple reason that Jesus stated in Luke 12:15b, “*for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.*” Surely if nothing else, *the Rich Man and Lazarus* teach this, Luke 16:19-31!
- **Homes lost due to storms or foreclosures can’t “ruin your life.”** Treasured and irreplaceable keepsakes may be lost due to storm, or we may to have relinquish places that are near and dear to our hearts, but aren’t we supposed to be *pilgrims* and *aliens* traveling to a heavenly *home*, cf. John 14:1-3; Heb.11:13; 1Pet.2:11? Financial foundations and homes can be rebuilt, but soul lost is gone forever.
- **Health destroyed due to virus or related complications can’t “ruin your life.”** Like evil people, they can only “*kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul,*” Matt.10:28. Unless we are “*alive and remain*” when Jesus returns (cf. 1Thess.4:15), none of us is getting out of here alive. Sooner or later and in one

way or another, *everyone dies*, Heb.9:27. But disease or even death can't "ruin your life" unless you have "*hoped in Christ in this life*," 1Cor.15:19.

- **Lost relationships can't "ruin your life."** Some relationships are lost due to "too much time together"- others due to "too much time apart." Still others are forfeited to the *sword of truth* and adherence to it, cf. Luke 12:51-53. While family and other relationships can bring much joy and happiness to our lives, they can also bring much heartache and misery. When you get right down to it, only one relationship counts toward eternity- our relationship to God our Father through Jesus His Son. No other relationship can "ruin your life" unless you allow it to hamper or destroy this one!

Conclusion:

Job lost most all of the things most folks would say has "ruined my life." Though he manifested great patience initially (cf. Job 1:13-22), he eventually thought losing his possessions, family, and health had "ruined" his life too, cf. 10:1-22. But he was wrong, 42:10-17! And we are too if we ever come to believe that ANYTHING has "ruined my life." The ONLY thing that results in a life being "ruined" is missing heaven!