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*Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33*

Have you seen the movie “Bucket List” with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman? They are cancer patients who strike out to accomplish all the things they (mostly Jack Nicholson’s character) want to do before they die. Have you such a list? Do you want to visit exotic locations, free fall from a high expanse, or travel to the space station? What stops you? Perhaps cost, but otherwise, what stops you?

Have you considered what might be on God’s bucket list? He must have one when we think of all the things He did and does do for this sinful humanity. Consider creation; the Lord God made it perfect. What a vision – beautiful nature, amazing animals and human beings in *His own image* (Genesis 1&2). How amazing! God was able to make the checkmark on His bucket list item, “Create heavens, earth, and my children.”

But the bucket list had to be adjusted. Sin was introduced by Satan to Adam and Eve. Instead of

turning away, God adapted His bucket list. (John 3:16). He sacrificed Jesus, His beloved Son. Jesus gave His life, and our loving Father could check off another item on His bucket list, “Save my children from eternal damnation.”

Is His bucket list completed? No. Our loving Father realizes our sinful nature continues to draw us away from Him. So, graciously He provides the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort, and call us through Word and Sacrament. In this way, God’s bucket list is ongoing with, “Reassure my children that My Word is true, I love them, saved them, and call them to be My own.” God’s bucket list goes on as long as this world goes on.

Now, our bucket list may lean towards the temporal – travel, fearless activities, or even things “out of this world” but on the top of our bucket list should be: “I yearn to go with God down every road; I want to never fear trials because I am safe in the love of the Lord; I wish to experience the day He will call me from this world to be by His side.” May these be on the top of our bucket list as God promises He will see it to completion.



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