

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“The Value of Your Soul” Pt. 2

By Brian Meade

Jesus said in Matthew 16:24-26, *“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*



We are spotlighting the words of Jesus, as He called would-be disciples to Himself. The call would be an intentional death to selfish and worldly desires that conflict with godliness and self-sacrifice required to live pleasing to God. Following Jesus would only be possible by giving up on self in that way!

Jesus then asks the two most important questions for us to consider: *““For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

Those two questions are at the very heart of our decision to either follow Jesus or follow our own selfish ways and be lost! Notice the key words underlined in the text (by me). Jesus said, *“For what will it profit a man....?”* We would say today, “What good would it do you?” The first question is a rhetorical question that is so obvious that there is only one right answer— It profits us nothing to gain the whole world and lose something as priceless as our soul!

It is true that none of us will ever have ownership or control over everything in the world. And thus, Jesus is emphasizing the fact that there is not enough in the world to make it worthwhile to forfeit your eternal life! There are not enough pleasures, not enough riches, not enough sensual desires that lead us away from God to make the gain of the whole world worth the forfeit of our soul!

Jesus’ second question, *“Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* reminds us that the ONLY redeeming power of the soul is by the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19). This is similar in language and outcome as Psalm 49:6-8, where the psalmist says, *“Even those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches? No man can by any means redeem his brother Or give to God a ransom for him— For the redemption of his soul is costly, And he should cease trying forever.”*

The Greek word for “exchange” has the meaning “the price received as an equivalent of, or in exchange for, an article, an exchange” hence denotes the price at which the “exchange” is effected, Matt. 16:26; Mark 8:37. Connected with this is the conception of atonement, as in the word *lutron*, “a ransom.” (Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words Vol. 2, p. 215).

When we stand before God in accountability and in judgment, we will not even have all the money, treasures, and riches we had in world anymore! (Job 1:21; 1 Timothy 6:7) All the world is passing away and will one day be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10-12)— therefore to gain the whole world, is not truly a gain or profit to us at all!

Jesus is getting us to see the great folly of trying to live for worldly pleasures and pursuits— so we can make the only logical and proper decision to live for Him!

Now we want to ask some questions that get to the heart of the matter of our soul's value. As we see the true worth of our soul in light of eternity, we should make some personal applications to such knowledge.

(1) Do You Value Your Soul Enough To Study God's Word?

Sadly, many people do not see the worth of serious Bible study for the purpose of finding out God's will for them. But it is only through careful study that we find the truth that leads to the saving of the soul.

We see in John 8:31-32, "*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

James tells us, "*Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.*" (James 1:21)

Now if we love our soul and want to preserve it, we will study the word of God for the purpose of salvation. But if we don't value our soul— we will neglect and despise the words of Jesus!

(2) Do You Value Your Soul Enough To Repent & Obey The Gospel?

One is not saved just by knowing the truth or what the gospel requires of him— but by doing it (Matthew 7:21; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

For some people, the fact that they must in complete submission and repentance give their lives over to devotion to Jesus can be the hardest part of faith and obedience. I have seen those who are hardened atheist spew forth the most vile words of contempt for the living God! They look at changing their lives to please God as abject slavery and oppression— rather than freedom from the devil's oppression (John 8:34-36).

I have also seen men who love the world too much to let go of worldly pleasures and desires in repentance. They enjoy the drinking life of alcohol and intoxication too much to change (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Peter 4:2-4). Or they love the pleasures of fornication and adultery too much to get out of those sins— but that is what God calls us to do (1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4).

Many are just like Governor Felix in Acts 24:25, "*But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."*

It scared Felix that he might have to give up his sin to be obedient to God, just as it scares many today!

But if we value our soul and want eternal life, we will do what God asks of us in living for Him (Acts 2:37-38; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23).

(3) Do You Value Your Soul Enough To Attend All The Services Of The Church?

In Hebrews 10:22-25, the inspired writer of Scripture teaches how important it is to be there for the services of the church. Notice that he says, "*let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together; as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*"

Is the assembling with the saints something important to you? Or is it something you feel is optional or "no big deal" to forsake? Notice some of the key words from those Scriptures that help us know our duties to God and each other as we assemble. We draw near to God as we worship before Him; as we hold fast the confession of our faith; as we stop wavering; as we are faithful to God— as God is faithful to us; as we consider one another; as we stimulate to love and good works; as we don't forsake the assembling of the saints; as we encourage one another; as we prepare for the day that is drawing near.

Do you value your soul enough to be a part of what Jesus died for? (Acts 20:28) If we do, we will want to be there at our every opportunity to assemble!

(4) Do You Value Your Soul Enough To Listen To Faithful Brethren Who See Us Backslide In Our Faith?

Then there are times when the faithful to God become unfaithful for whatever reason (Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20-22). It is precisely these times that we have to determine how valuable our soul is to us.

James tells us in James 5:19-20, "*My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*" Do we really want the promises of God and the eternal life found only in serving Him? Or do we want the "here and now" pleasures that sin can bring?

Will we listen to concerned brethren, God's word, and what we know is truth and right? We will if we value our soul and where we will spend eternity!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt. Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom) will have hip surgery October 8th

Our Gospel Meeting begins Today (September 29th) and goes through October 4th. Jarrod Jacobs from Caneyville, Ky. will be our speaker for the week. Service times are 7:00 PM Monday through Friday.

North Jackson Street Church of Christ is having a Gospel Meeting beginning October 21 thru the 25th with John Isaac Edwards. Monday-Friday 7:00 PM Nightly.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Johnson
Preaching: Jarrod Jacobs
Sermon #1: *"What Would You Say At Jesus' Funeral"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Jarrod Jacobs
"Joseph And Mary's Assumption"

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Adam Harris
Matthew 13:31-35
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: Paul Busby & Nathan Meade
Preaching: Jarrod Jacobs
Sermon #2: *"The Parable of the Mustard Seed"*
Closing Prayer: Fred Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 2nd:

Gospel Meeting: Jarrod Jacobs
Song Leader: *To Be Announced*
Closing Prayer: *To Be Announced*