

The Value Of The Soul

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October 15, 2011

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Matt. 16:26

Matt. 16:26, *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

Two things are implied by Christ in these two questions in our text:

That they who are striving to gain the world, and are unwilling to give it up for the sake of the soul, will lose their souls.

That if the soul is lost, nothing can be given in exchange for it, for it can never afterwards be saved. There is no redemption in Hell.

We give great concern about material things, but we often show little interest in spiritual things.

We have our property and even our lives insured.

We place money in the bank, and have other securities.

When our physical bodies and possessions are in danger of burning in a house fire, we try to save ourselves and what possessions we can. But, what of our soul? It is in danger of burning. Shouldn't it be just as important, or more?

The soul: What is it?

A spirit.

Eccl. 12:7, *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”*

It is that within man that loves, hates, hopes, prays, believes, aspires, is tempted, sins, repents, and can be eternally saved or lost.

What is its value? Its value is seen in:

That it is worth more than the world.

Matt. 16:26, *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

That it is worth more than the body.

- 2 Cor. 4:16, *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”*
- 2 Cor. 5:1, *“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”*

That it is immortal.

1 Cor. 15:54, *“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

That man cannot destroy it.

Matt. 10:28, *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

That it must return to God.

Eccl. 12:7, *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”*

That it will spend eternity in one of two places.

- Matt. 7:13-14, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*
- Matt. 25:46, *“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”*

The faculties of the soul:

Loving. Matt. 22:37, *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”*

Thoughts. Prov. 23:7, *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”*

Obedience. Rom. 6:17, *“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”*

The price paid for it.

1 Pet. 1:18-19, *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

It cannot be replaced if lost.

God has given every person one soul and only one; if it is lost, all is lost.

What value do you place on your soul?

What do you say by your actions that indicate what your soul is worth?

All of us would say that it is priceless when we are in a discussion, but in our life's actions do we show that we value our soul?

Do we show, instead, that we love the world more than we love God?

Some people act as if their souls are worth very little, for they are careless and indifferent about the welfare of their souls.

The world.

What is it?

- 1 John 2:15-16, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”*
The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes — pleasure.
- Eccl. 2:1, *“I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.”*
- Eccl. 5:10, *“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”*
- 1 Tim. 6:10, *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

What would be your gain if you gain the world?

Something that cannot satisfy.

- John 4:13-14, *“Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

- Matt. 4:4, *“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

Something perishable.

1 John 2:17, *“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”*

Something that must be left in this world.

- Luke 12:16-21, *“And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”*
- 1 Tim. 6:6-8, *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”*

What would be your loss if you gain the world?

The world.

That which you have gained at so great a cost will be lost, for the lost soul cannot take this world with him into the next world.

Hence, the man who loses his soul in gaining money, not only loses his soul, but his money as well.

He who gains social honors at the expense of his soul will lose them, for they will be worthless to him in Hell.

Therefore, a soul lost for gain of the world doesn't mean the world is gained, for he cannot take that which he has gained in this world with him into the next world.

A lifetime of service.

A life of many years which could have been devoted to God's glory and service are all lost.

Matt. 25:14-30, “*For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*”

The lost soul can never be recovered — it is eternally lost.

If you lose your soul in the pursuit of pleasure, riches, honor, popularity, etc., you will never throughout eternity have an opportunity to redeem the loss.

Lost in Hell.

- Rom. 6:23, “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

- Luke 16:26, “*And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*”

The rich man learned his lesson too late.

He learned in death a lesson that he needed to learn in life.

Ezek. 18:20-21, “*The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.*”

Conclusion.

A lost soul is the greatest wreck and tragedy possible, while a saved soul is the greatest accomplishment and success possible.

What will be your choice?

- Eternal salvation through your obedience to the gospel, or:
- Everlasting destruction?

Weigh the consequences, and choose now.

Heb. 3:7-8, “*Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts,...*”

How can a person become a Christian? The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”

- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” Acts 11:18, “*... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*” If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There’s a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I’m sorry; I’m sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.
- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*” What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are “**UNTO**” righteousness, life, or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, “*But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said “*it becometh **us** to fulfil all righteousness.*” We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? *“for the remission of sins”*. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

