

Let The Bible Speak Series

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Gaining The World, Losing Your Soul

Two things are implied by Christ in this passage:

1. That one who strives to gain the world, and is unwilling to give it up for the sake of his/her soul, will lose their soul.
2. 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 have great concern about material things, but often show little interest in spiritual things.

1. We have our property, life, health etc insured.
2. We place our bonds and securities in the bank.
3. But often have little concern about the salvation of our soul or the souls of others.

I. The Soul (What is it)? 1. God is a Spirit—John 4:24

Man was made in his image Gen. 1:26; hence the spiritual entity of man is that which is his never-dying soul. a. lose his own soul, Mt. 16:26 b. lose himself, Luke 9:25 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"

II. What is its Value? Its value is seen in:

- a. That it is worth more than the world. Mt. 16:26
- b. That it is worth more than the body 2Cor. 4:16 "Therefore do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." 1Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
- c. It is worth more than any member of the body. Mt. 5:29-30 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."
- d. Man cannot destroy it. Mt. 10:28 "And do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul."
- e. It must return to God. Eccl. 12:7 "The dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit to God who gave it."
- f. It will spend eternity in one of two places. Mt. 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate, for strait is the gate and narrow the way..."
- g. The value of the soul is seen in its faculties: 1. It has power to think. Prov. 23:7 "As a man thinketh in his heart..." 2. It has power to reason. Mark 2:8 "...why do you reason about these things in your heart?" 3. It has power to love. Mt. 22:37 "You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." It has the power to obey. Rom. 6:17-17 "But God be thanked that ye were the servants..."
- h. The value of the soul is seen in the price paid for it. 1Peter 1:18-20 "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold from your aimless conduct received by tradition

from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ as of a limb without blemish and without spot
i. The value of the soul can be seen in the fact that it cannot be replaced. You have only one soul and only one, if it is lost, all is lost.

III. What Value Do You Place on Your Soul?

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

1. All of us would say it is priceless. But what value do we place on our soul by the way we live? 2. Do we show by our actions that we love the world more than we love God?
3. Some indicate that their souls are worth very little, for they are careless about the welfare of their soul.
4. Some handle their money and other valuables with caution and care, but have no thought for their soul.

IV. The World. (What is it?) 1John 2:15-16

The world is the dominion of Satan. He is the God of this world.

2Cor. 4:3-4 "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this world has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God should shine on them."

We are not only told "love not the world" but "neither the things in the world."

i.e. "do not love the world, nor anything that may be in it."

"For if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him."

Note: one cannot love the world and the Father at the same time. They are incompatible.

They cannot exist in the same heart at the same time.

1. Lust of the flesh. Evil desire which finds its origin in the flesh and through the flesh finds expression.

The lust of the flesh manifests itself in the works of the flesh Gal. 5:19.

2. Lust of the eye. Desires awakened through the appeal of objects of sight.

3. Vanity, pride, worldly honor. Such honor and power can never bring satisfaction, for there is always someone upon a little higher pedestal of power and influence than we are.

Alexander the Great was not satisfied when he conquered the whole world. He wept because there was nothing left to conquer. It is interesting to note that the devil used these very avenues to appeal to Eve in the Garden of Eden and our Lord when he tempted him. "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), and that it was a delight to the eye (lust of the eye) and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise (vainglory of life), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat." Gen. 3:6

Satan suggested that Jesus, after fasting for forty days should "command that these stones be made bread, (lust of the flesh) he then showed the Lord all the kingdoms of the world and promised them to him on condition that he do him homage, an appeal to the (lust of the eyes); and in bidding the Lord to exercise powers of divine protection by flinging himself down from the pinnacle of the temple he appealed to a sense of pride and (vain glory).

V. What Would Be Your Gain, If You Gained the World?

1. Something that cannot satisfy. Mt. 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of..."

Ecc. 5:10 "He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance with increase. This is also vanity." 2. A dangerous master.

1Tim. 6:9-10 "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish

and hurtful snares which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through many sorrows." Heb. 11:25 "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

3. Something perishable. 1Peter 1:24 "all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass, the grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever." 1John 2:17 "...the world and the lust thereof passeth away, but he that doeth the will of God abides forever."

4. Something that must be left behind. Luke 12:19-20 "And I will say to my soul, Soul you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease eat, drink, and be merry. But God said to him fool, this night your soul will be required of you, then whose will those things be which you have provided?" 1Tim. 6:7-8 "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."

VI. What Would Be Your Loss if You Gain The World?

A. 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 or political honors at the expense of his soul will lose them for they will be worthless to him in hell. Therefore a soul lost for the gain of the world does not mean the world is actually gained, for one cannot take that which he has gained in this world with him into the next.

B. A lifetime of service. A life of many years which could have been devoted to God's glory and service will all be lost. C. The lost soul can never be recovered—it is eternally lost. If you lose your soul in the pursuit of pleasure, riches or honor, you will never throughout all eternity have an opportunity to redeem the loss.

D. Lost in Hell. Rom. 6:23 "The wages of sin..." Ezek. 18:20 "The soul that sins shall die..." A soul in hell is lost forever Luke 16 "The rich man learned his lesson too late.

He learned in death a lesson he should have learned in life.

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? Will you say with Joshua "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

It is a choice between life and death, eternity in heaven or hell. Take heed how you make that choice. Your soul hangs in the balance. You must decide. Will it be your soul or the world you seek to save?