

The Value Of The Soul

Matthew 16:21-28

Kent Bailey

A careful study of the context of Matthew 16:21-28 gives great emphasis to God's scheme of Redemption. Our Lord underscored the importance of his Deity. Peter confessed that Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of the Living God and upon the basis of this confession, Christ promised to build his church.

From this point of time our Lord began to demonstrate to his followers that he must go into Jerusalem, suffer rejection of the masses, die on the cross to pay the sin debt of humanity, and be raised from death. Peter did not understand the truth regarding God's eternal scheme and offered an objection to what would occur. Christ rebuked him and discussed the importance of the spiritual values of one's life.

We are living in a commercial age in which the aspect of values is discussed freely. We appreciate material items being reduced in so far as their sale price is concerned. In earnest discussion we often seek to make purchases at a lower price. We need to consider that the human soul is worth far more than the entirety of the world and all of its riches. The human soul is so important and so valuable that God did not devalue it in paying the purchase price for our salvation.

We see the value of the soul in the incarnation and birth of Christ Upon learning that Mary was expecting a child Joseph, not knowing the importance of God's eternal plan was minded to put her away privately and not complete the marriage agreement. The angel of the Lord indicated to Joseph that the child conceived in Mary was of God, that he should take Mary to be his wife. The fact that cause the second member of the Godhead to give up the glories of Heaven and while maintaining the attributes of Deity to also become incarnate in humanity demonstrates the value of the soul (John 1:11-14).

We see the value of the soul in the parable of the lost sheep In Luke 13:1-7 we note that Christ is speaking to publicans and sinners. His association was not for the purpose of approval of their life styles; it was that of presentation of truth out of concern for their souls. Here is painted a word picture of a flock if one hundred sheep. The great majority of the sheep are safe, right where they should be. One, however is lost. Note that the loving shepherd searches until he locates the lost one. Having found the lost sheep, he carries it home on his own shoulders. Upon arriving home, the announcement is made to friends : *"Rejoice with me; I have found my sheep."* While many may not care about those lost in sin, our Lord does. The soul of humanity is indeed valuable.

We see the value of the soul in the parable of the prodigal son In Luke 15:11-24 we read about a young man so enamored with the world and the allurements of sin that he walk away from his own father. When he finally came to himself, repented of his sins, reformed his life and returned to his father; his father lovingly received him back all because of the value of his soul. His father did not compromise, however he was willing to forgive upon the conditions of changing his life and returning home.

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We see the value of the soul in the rich man and Lazarus In Luke 16:19-31 we note two specific individuals living in vivid contrast. One was rich while the other was poor. One was living in obedience to the word of God while the other was living in rebellion to God. Both experienced physical death bring about the end of life on earth. The rich man went to torment while Lazarus was escorted by the angels of God to paradise. Material possessions do not guarantee one of eternal riches. God's grace is limited to our faith and obedience. One's eternal destiny cannot be changed after our life on earth.

We see the value of the soul as we read of the prayer of Christ in Gethsemane. The prayers of Christ as uttered in Gethsemane provide clear insight into his heart and work (Matthew 26:36-46). As we note these prayers we find four noble characteristics and desires relative to value of the souls of men. Christ had a heart of **supplication**. He poured out his heart unto the Father, God. Christ also had a heart of **sacrifice** knowing that such had to be accomplished. It was not his desire to undergo the terrible suffering for our sins, however he was willing to undergo such due to the value of our souls. Christ had a heart of **submission** to accomplish the Father's plan, knowing that if redemption would be offered he had to submit unto the Father's will to accomplish such. Christ also had a heart of **steadfastness** in that he cried out: *"Not my will, thy will be done."*

We see the value of the soul in the crucifixion The cruel beating, mocking of the Roman soldiers, the fraudulent trial, the humiliation and the false charges brought against our Lord in view of his reaction to all these blasphemous actions we also note the horrible suffering on the cross that he endured (Matthew 27:26-54).

*When I think of Jesus' love,
And how he came from Heaven above,
I'm ashamed because I know,
That I have failed my thanks to show.
I know, I know he loves me:
This he proved at Calvary.
He gave his life that I might live,
He cared that much for me.*

We see the value of the soul at the ascension Not only did our Lord rise as victor over death, hell, and the grave (Romans 1:1-4). He ascended back to the father to establish his church (the kingdom). All of this was because of the value of the soul (Hebrews 1:7-9).

We see the value of the soul at the Judgment In Revelation 20:12, 14, 15 we see the divine picture of the judgment and justice of God. The final coming of Christ will be the great day of all days. In it and that which follows is the realization of God's scheme of Redemption--the eternal purpose of God. It should be anticipated by Christians with joy and dreaded by lost individuals with realization of their eternal punishment.

One can no more estimate the value of the soul than one can adequately estimate the value of gaining the reward of Heaven and escaping the punishments of Hell. May we **never** underestimate the value of the soul.

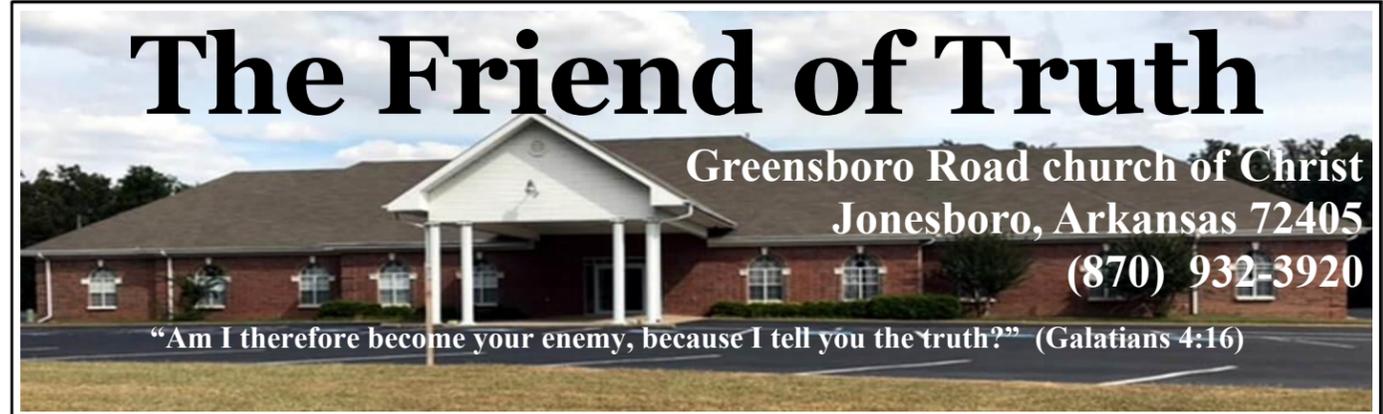
NEWS AND NOTES

"I was sick, and ye visited me..." (Matthew 25:36)

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer Request List, and inform us of any needed updates. Also be sure to read any thank you notes we have received that are on the board.

"Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Corinthians 14:26)

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:14)



The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

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"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)

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KeepNotes

With all the present troubles we are facing and changes we have had to make in the ways we do things, I am very thankful for many of our Bible class teachers who are continuing to send out materials and worksheets to our younger ones to help keep them engaged in Bible study. With that in mind I came across this and thought it would be a good reminder to our younger ones and the rest of us as well.

YOUTH COMMANDMENTS

- Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
- Choose your companions with care; you become what they are.
- Be master of your habits or they will master you.
- Treasure your time; don't spend it; invest it.
- Stand for something or you'll fall for anything.
- Select only a date who would make a good mate.
- See what you can do for others; not what they can do for you.
- Guard your thoughts; what you think, you are.
- Don't fill up on this world's crumbs; feed your soul on Living Bread.
- Give your all to Christ; He gave His all for you.

We are so blessed to have such wonderful children as a vital part of our work at Greensboro Road. The church has parents who love the Lord and because of that love do everything they can to teach and prepare their children for life. May every parent and grandparent live long and prosperous lives and enjoy seeing your children and grandchildren become greater and greater assets to the church.

"In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge." (Proverbs 14:26)

"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him." (Proverbs 20:7)

SHEPHERDS

*Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens*

DEACONS

*Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten*

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

*Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA*

SERVICES

SUNDAY

*Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17*

*Believe the Word of God
John 8:24*

*Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3*

*Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10*

*Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38*

*Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10*

*"Where there is no vision,
the people perish..."
Proverbs 29:18*

*God Give Us 2020 Vision
in 2020*

Those Privileged To Serve

May 3, 2020

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

April 26, 2020

Sunday Bible Study
Sunday AM Worship
Sunday PM Worship
Wednesday Bible Study
Contribution \$

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA
Bible Reading: TBA
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding:
TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Randy Oden
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Song Leader: Randy Oden
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

TBA