

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 24

2017

What Would You Give In Exchange For Your Soul?

In Matthew 16:26, Jesus asked, *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* Have you ever considered those questions before? You see, those are good questions, but sadly there are too many people today who are putting their souls at risk by choosing not to consider them. So, I ask you to consider...

1) Are Riches Worth Losing Your Soul For?

In Luke 18, we read of a certain ruler who asked Jesus, “what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replied with, “you know the commandments” and then the man said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” Jesus then replied, “sell all you have and distribute to the poor, and come and follow Me.” Folks, after hearing those words the man became sorrowful. Why? Well, because he was very rich (Luke 18:23). You see, sadly there are many people today who, like the rich ruler, put riches before eternal life. However, the thing we must all understand is, *“Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death”* (Proverbs 11:4). Friends, hold on to those words of wisdom, and be one who puts eternal life before riches (1 Timothy 6:6-10).

2) Is Your Job Worth Losing Your Soul For?

Unfortunately, more and more people today are choosing to work

on Sundays rather than choosing to worship God as He has commanded (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). Now, I know we all have to make a living and provide for our families (1 Timothy 5:8), but can't we do that Monday-Saturday? You see, God is to always be #1 in our lives, not second or third, but always first. Therefore, our main priority needs to always be focused on serving God over anything else. So, may we all be one who puts first things first, and let's always choose to worship God, rather than work on the first day of the week. For as Jesus said, *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (food, clothing, etc.) will be added to you”* (Matthew 6:33).

3) Is Your Ego Worth Losing Your Soul For?

Sadly, there are a lot of people today who put self and what self thinks and wants before the Lord and what He wants. However, we all need to remember, *“...the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). You see, my friends, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death”* (Proverbs 14:12). Folks, man's all is to fear God and to keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). So, always remember, it's all about God's will rather than about our will (Matthew 26:39). Therefore, be one who denies self, and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24-25) and keep in mind, *“whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted”* (Matthew 23:12).

4) Is An Unscriptural Marriage Worth Losing Your Soul For?

In Matthew 19:3, the Pharisees asked Jesus, *“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”* That's a good question, right? However, notice what Jesus said in verse 6, *“what God has joined together, let not man separate.”* Dropping down to verse 9 Jesus says, *“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”*

Folks, to be simply put, it is not lawful (acceptable to God) to get divorced for just any reason. For, Jesus said, there is one, and only one, acceptable reason for divorce and remarriage, and that is if

sexual immorality (fornication) has been committed. Then the innocent party, and only the innocent party, has the right to put away their spouse and the right to remarry. Folks, beware of what man says about divorce and remarriage, and always rely upon what Jesus has said on the matter. Likewise, never forget fornicators and adulterers will be among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). So, I ask, is being in an unscriptural relationship worth losing your soul for?

5) Is Choosing To Follow The Majority Worth Losing Your Soul For?

Last, but certainly not least, I ask you to consider if following the majority is worth losing your soul for. You see, many fail to have respect for Scriptural authority (Matthew 21:23) and because of that many just choose to do as they please having no regard for the Lord and His will, and many others vainly worship and teach as doctrines the commandments of men (Matthew 15:9). Folks, Christ has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). Therefore, if we want to inherit eternal life in heaven we must be obedient unto the one true gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9) and we must always obey Christ (Hebrews 5:9).

In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said, *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* Ladies and gentleman, which path will you choose? Will you follow the majority and take the path which leads to destruction, or will you be one of the few who chooses the narrow/difficult way which leads to life?

Friends, nothing, and I repeat nothing, (including the whole world itself) is worth losing your soul for. So, once again, I encourage you to consider the value of your soul, and never forget these words of Jesus, *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”* (Matthew 10:28).

✍️ Brad Phillips

“A Place To Go To Church”

“We want a place to go to church. Tried out one across the tracks but the building was dilapidated, in a bad part of town. Not many folks and kinda unfriendly. Appeared to us they didn't have much money and none of the nicer folks went there. It might do – in a lurch.

We want a place to go to church to belong and be proud of. Mind you, now, we don't want to be called on to help the poor, preach the word, or even have to attend bible classes. We'd be happy as long as folks would just let us go to church and leave us alone. We just really want a place to perch when we got the urge to go to church.”

Folks who want a place to "go to church" don't want to belong to a church made up of folks like them, because it wouldn't be much of a church. They miss out on the close, warm feeling of brethren caring for one another. They perch in the church pews to evaluate the worship and preaching but experience neither the thrill of really knowing God nor the joy of spirit worship.

We tell folks up front and plain – we are not a place to go to church – We are a living, loving, working, worshipping, serving, group of Christians, who are committed to putting God first. And if being all that is not what they want, they need to continue their search. Because God does, we expect more of folks than "going to church"! ✍️ Jim Everett

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507