

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

November 13

2022

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 soul at risk by choosing not to consider them. So, I ask you to consider...

Are Riches Worth Exchanging 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 said, “sell all you have and distribute to the poor, and come and follow Me.” However, after hearing those words, the man became sorrowful. Why? Well, because he was very rich (Luke 18:23). You see, sadly there are too many people today who, like the rich ruler, put riches before eternal life. Therefore, it is very important to understand that, “*Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death*” (Proverbs 11:4). Friend, hold on to those words of wisdom, and be one who puts eternal life before riches (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19).

Is Your Job Worth Exchanging Your Soul For?

Unfortunately, more and more people today are choosing to take on extra shifts and are going to work on Sundays (i.e. the first day of the week) rather than choosing to worship God. Now, I know

that 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 to 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 (i.e. food, clothing, etc.) will be added to you*” (Matthew 6:33).

Is Your Ego Worth Exchanging 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). Knowing that, keep in mind that 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 never forget, “*whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted*” (Matthew 23:12).

Is An Unscriptural Marriage Worth Exchanging 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.*”

To be simply put it is not lawful (i.e 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 (i.e. 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. Friends, 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 really worth exchanging your soul for?

Is Following The Majority Worth Exchanging Your Soul For?

Last but certainly not least, I ask you to consider if following the majority is worth exchanging 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). However, 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) rather than men.

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.”* My friend, 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 and difficult way which leads to life?

Friend, 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

God’s Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

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| Belleville church of Christ | |
| 5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258 | |
| www.bellevillechurch.net | |
| Schedule of Services | |
| Sunday Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening Worship | 4:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 p.m. |
| Elders | |
| David Lockhart | (317) 714-6213 |
| David Thomas | (317) 945-8539 |
| Evangelist | |
| Brad Phillips | (765) 720-2816 |