

THE GOING PRICE OF A SOUL Continued from page 1

Satan must be thrilled with Jack, and with all the souls he is able to obtain for the low price of brief sexual satisfaction.

Jared's Soul: The Price of Autonomy

Jared has never liked being told what to do. He has always wanted to be in control. He has never liked the idea of a God to whom he owes his existence and must give account. He has never liked the idea of any standard different from what seems good to him personally. While he has learned about God, he "did not like to retain God in his knowledge" (cf. Romans 1:28, 21). He identifies closely with the words of William Ernest Henley, who wrote in his poem *Invictus*, "I thank whatever gods may be For my unconquerable soul. . . I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

Whenever someone believes he is the captain of his own destiny with no need for God, he can be assured that Satan is the real driver of the ship. James warns,

. . . God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up (James 4:6-10).

If one refuses to submit to the authority of God, and particularly to that of Christ (cf. Matthew 28:18; John 12:48; Colossians 3:17), he has no chance to resist the devil. One who never will submit to God remains the slave of sin and of Satan (cf. Romans 6:16-18).

Jane's Soul: The Price of the Lustful Glances of a Few Men

Jane has always liked attention. And she has noticed that she gets plenty of it when she dresses revealingly-short shorts and skirts, spaghetti strap- and halter tops, low-cut dresses-they all show off what Jane knows to be alluring to men. She is not worried that her attire might detract others from noticing her warm personality, her bright intellect, or her once deep spirituality. Those attributes were never noticed so readily or obviously as her physical attributes are now that she dresses "sexy." And she assures herself that she is just being "fun" – she would never engage in inappropriate acts with a man.

But by presenting herself in this fashion, she encourages men to look on her to lust; and thus, to "commit adultery in their hearts" (cf. Matthew 5:27-28). Jesus warned, "*But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea*" (Matthew 18:6).

For the price of the lustful glances of a few men, Satan is able to get the soul of this woman; and as an added bonus, he gets the souls of those lustful men thrown in.

Conclusion

Just because the going price of a soul seems to be dipping down does not mean that one has to sell at market price. A smart merchant would never make it a practice to sell his goods at an overall loss. Yet Satan is able to entice the majority of people to sell their own most precious possessions-their souls-at low cost and eternal loss. When it comes to one's soul, there simply should be no price placed upon it- ever: *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?* (Matthew 16:26).

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BELVEDERE BEACON
"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)
Volume 10 Number 40 October 3, 2009
A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST
535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574
(Greater Augusta, GA area)
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
SUNDAY: WEDNESDAY:
Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am. Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 am.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
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IS IT NOT WORTH THE EFFORT?

So often the old Devil seeks to discourage us by hindering the Lord's work. He is a master at discouraging the brethren. He knows every trick and every ploy. So often godly saints want to quit and say... "It is not worth the effort..."

Often Elders grow discouraged because sheep stray and reject all efforts to restore them. Many members could not care less that brethren grow weak and die spiritually, so they become grounds of discouragement by hindering the reclamation and discipline of lost members. Elders often feel... "It is not worth the effort..."

Often Deacons grow discouraged because so few will cooperate with them in getting the job done. Other deacons do not bear their fair share of the load and this discourages, too. They say... "It is not worth the effort..."

Often Bible School Teachers grow discouraged. Students do not study their lessons, and if comments are made, half are wrong or off the point! Many act as if Bible study is an "optional expedient" instead of "growth unto salvation." Then the old expression arises... "It is not worth the effort..."

Often Preachers despair. People often fail to react as they should to the word. Preachers' words and actions are often misunderstood, misrepresented or actually opposed, so he becomes discouraged. After years of study, application and faithful service, a handful of brethren can destroy the preacher's work by getting the ear of the eldership, so the preacher says... "It is not worth the effort..."

All of us have felt this on occasions about something we are doing for the Lord's cause. But through it all we must remember that what we do, we do for God! Many times it takes tremendous effort to persevere in our work in the kingdom. Only those who have been there really understand the unremitting toil, sacrifice, time and effort, and even money it takes to continually achieve for the Master (in any of the above roles). No one else may even notice, much less sympathize or help.

But God notices. God cares. God is concerned and God will ultimately make it right. It may not be worth the effort if it is for money we serve or for favor or popularity or for any of a hundred other reasons. But for God it is worth it! Hang in there!

Andrew Connally
deceased

HOW TO KILL A CONGREGATION

- 1. Let False Teaching Go Unchecked. Tolerate** error in the name of "fairness" or "broad-mindedness." Let doctrinal problems fester until they defy solution.
 - 2. Do Nothing to Stop Gossip and Backbiting.** Let rumors circulate without restraint about members of the congregation, especially its leaders and their families. Believe everything you hear—that way, no one will want to lead for fear of being picked to pieces.
 - 3. Place a Low Estimate on the Need for Congregational Unity.** Allow the contentious to divide the church into camps that do not have anything to do with each other. Drive a wedge between members, fragmenting the strength and influence of the body. A good fuss will set the congregation back at least an entire generation.
 - 4. De-Emphasize Mission Work.** Reason that there is no cause to be alarmed with somebody halfway across the world when there are so many good works at home—that way, the church is isolated and loses sight of its higher purpose.
 - 5. Tolerate Sin in the Church.** Do nothing about worldly members whose lives bring shame to the church and indignity to the name of Christ.
 - 6. Foster a Cold, Spiritless, Uncaring Atmosphere in the Worship Services.** Make no effort to make visitors feel welcome.
 - 7. Soft-Peddle the Subject of Giving.** Offer no bold challenges requiring sacrifice for fear of offending the stingy.
 - 8. Offer Young People Recreation and Entertainment But No Help with Their Spiritual Lives.** Offer them no opportunities to serve others—to flex their spiritual muscles. Tacitly suggest that the sacrificial, cross-bearing life that makes Christianity come alive is for grown-ups; let them be content with an endless succession of wiener roasts.
 - 9. Put Programs Above People.** Make it necessary for a good idea to go through countless channels before it can ever get off the ground. This insures that whatever enthusiasm exists in the church will be killed by forcing it through the organizational meat-grinder.
- Did you read the above thoughtfully and carefully? Let none of us become guilty of trying to **KILL THE CONGREGATION!!!!**

Author Unknown

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron's sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Myrtle Grimsley is still not doing well.

We will be having a pot-luck meal today after the morning worship. Plan to stay and eat with us.

Keep Ken Chumbley and the work in England in your prayers. Ken leaves Monday, Lord willing, for England.

A \$2,800.00 BIBLE!?!

The shaky conditions of his economy led the Roman Emperor Diocletian to declare an all-out price-fixing in history's first attempt to curtail inflation. The edict, proclaimed in A.D. 300, set the price of beer, soap, food and even the Bible. To afford a complete Bible at the emperor's price, the average American would probably have to mortgage his house. Under the edict, you were charged for a Bible on this basis: A scribe's work was price-fixed at \$2,80 per 100 *stychoi* (one *stychos* equals one line of Homeric 16 syllable verse). For carefully copying 18,302 *stychoi*—the complete New Testament—he would receive the fixed figure of \$512.45 (in today's currency) and not a drachma more or less. For copying the complete Bible he would receive \$2,800.00. You paid, in addition, the cost of the papyri (a type of paper), which was in short production and price-fixed under the luxuries category. Just think, for \$3.00 you can now buy a Bible with full-color maps—at a savings of \$2,797.00! How many Bibles would you have at \$2,800.00 each? How much would you read the Bible if you paid \$2,800.00 for it? It's the same Book either way.

"How precious also are Thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:17)