

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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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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THE GOING PRICE OF A SOUL

A soul is worth more than the entire world and all its riches. There is one individual who has caviar tastes and a hot dog budget in this regard—Satan. Satan craves those valuable souls; but being the bargain shopper he is, he is usually able to find them at steep discount. Prices usually decline during times of recession; and during times of spiritual recession Satan picks up all sorts of bargains. Many films have been made about someone selling his soul to Satan, and Satan gives that person a great deal—worldwide fame and untold fortune—to get his soul. In reality, however, is most definitely a "buyer's market" when it comes to souls. Satan actually does not have to give most people very much at all to purchase their souls for eternal torment.

Jack's Soul: The Price of Brief Satisfaction

Jack is married with two children, and loves his family very much. He has worked hard for years to provide a house they can share together. But another woman comes on the scene, and begins acting "just a little too friendly" with Jack. It is not too long before he begins to respond in kind, and their flirting eventually leads to fornication. For a brief fling with another woman, Jack will give up everything that meant so much to him. Not only will he give up his precious family and home, he will give up his eternal soul of infinite value.

Sadly, many men and women sacrifice far more than ever occurred to them when they first succumbed to temptation. As they lose their families, or even should they remain together, they leave their children scarred from the experience.

Others may not commit literal fornication, but the proliferation of pornography has made "virtual fornication" more common and serious than ever. And viewing pornography constitutes sexual sin; as Jesus said, "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*" (Matthew 5:27-28). Even "adultery in one's heart" can devastate one's life. Many have lost their jobs because they viewed pornography while at work, and hurt their ability to be hired again. Sexual sin is addictive, leading one to commit more frequent and more grievous offenses against God. And sexual sin is against God (cf. Genesis 39:9). A child of God who engages in such mocks the grace of God (cf. Romans 6:1).

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Six Things You'll Never Regret

1. **Showing kindness to an aged person.** Lev. 19:32, "Thou shall rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord." Job 12:12, "With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding." Proverbs 23:22, "Hearken unto thy fathers that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old."
2. **Destroying a letter written in anger.** Eph. 4:26,31, "Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath; Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice; ... and be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ sake bath forgiven you." Prov. 15:18, "A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."
3. **Offering the apology that saved a friendship.** Prov. 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." Matt. 5:23-25, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee: leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou are in the way with him."
4. **Stopping a scandal that would wreck a reputation.** Prov. 12:23 "A prudent man concealth knowledge; but the hearts of fools proclaimeth foolishness." Prov. 17:9, "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeat a matter separateth very friends." Prov. 11:9, "A hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor."
5. **Taking time to show loved ones consideration.** Prov. 1:8-9, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother; For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck." I Tim. 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." Eph. 6:2-3, "Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."
6. **Feeling reverence for your maker.** Prov. 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." Prov. 3:5-7, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes fear the Lord, and depart from evil." Eccl. 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."

J. A. McNutt, Deceased

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 has not been well this week.

Our next pot-luck will be held October 4 after the morning worship. Plan to stay and eat together.

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)

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