

## WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED?

In the Aachen Cathedral, located in southern France, the revered emperor Charlemagne is buried in an unusual manner. He has been seated upon his marble throne and wrapped in his noble robes. In his lap, lies a copy of the Holy New Testament. His finger is positioned in a fashion to point to the following verse: *“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 16:24-28 eph. Added bh). With this one rhetorical question, Jesus reminded mankind of the value of the human soul. Jesus reminded all that no possession owned by man is more important than the soul. Everything gained in this world: (money, wealth, fame) means nothing if man loses his soul. This could, quite possibly, be the reason for the unusual burial of this king. As we study this question, we want to focus on three ideas. 1. Does the Bible teach man has a soul? 2. Why is a soul so valuable? 3. What is a fair exchange for a soul?

Does the Bible teach that man has a soul? YES. Others in the religious world teach that man IS a soul not that man HAS a soul. These teachings are in direct opposition to the Bible. Eight souls were saved in the ark. Does that mean all the other souls in the world were annihilated? Certainly not. The idea held in this phrase is to show the importance of obeying God’s commands 1Thessalonians 5:23 speaks of the “spirit, soul and body”. Matthew 10:28 speaks to the fact that others can kill the body but not the soul. My soul will be held in judgment on the Last Day for the actions of my body (Ecclesiastes 12:14). The soul will be judged, according to the holy word of God. Every man has a soul and the Christian needs to see mankind in that fashion. Man needs salvation for his soul.

Since the soul exists and it is a possession of every man, what makes it so valuable? We have two parts that make up man: the physical body and the soul. God created our physical bodies, however they do not look like God. God has no physical body. According to John 4:24 “ God is a spirit, they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”(eph. Added bh). Something in mankind was “created in

God’s image”. This something has to be the soul. The God given soul is what enables mankind to understand abstract ideas such as: life and death, eternity, right and wrong, good and evil or things that ought to be done. Most definitely, it is what separates man from animals (Psalm 8:3-8).

It is also valuable because it is the part we have all control over as mankind. The human body is the result of a roulette wheel of genetics. A child’s eye color, height, and hair color all deal with the genes of the parents of that child. Man can change his appearance through exercise or even plastic surgery; however man will never stop the aging and dying process. While the physical will eventually not be able to change, the soul is not so. The soul can change at any stage in life. With the gospel truth, man can change his attitude, disposition and character to follow God’s law (Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 5:21-22, Colossians 3:12-15). Man can change if he is willing to allow God to direct his steps.

The soul is valuable because the human soul does not cease to exist at the point of the physical death. The unfortunate fact is that man is born to die. We, most literally, begin dying as soon as we are born. The body soon wears down and ceases to function as designed by the Almighty Creator and the body dies. However, there is a part of mankind that will never cease to exist. The soul, after death, is returned to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7) and there it awaits the final Day of Judgment (Hebrews 9:27). This is the precise reason for mankind to evaluate every single decision made from an eternal perspective.

Yet another reason the human soul is so valuable is because of the price required to redeem the soul. The price to redeem a soul from the justified wrath of the jealous God was nothing less than the blood of His own Son (1Peter 1:18-19)! The only sinless man to ever walk upon this wicked world was murdered, if for no other reason than, to save MY soul. Even if man cannot fully comprehend why the Christ had to die, man should be able to see the value of his soul as man sees the necessity of the death of God’s Perfect Son.

Since man DOES have a soul and since the soul IS valuable, what will man give in exchange for his soul? To

“exchange” means to barter or to trade. So what does man trade for his soul? The answer is: virtually anything. For some the price of the soul is money (1Timothy 6:10). For some it is recreations of all sorts. Still others sell their greatest possession for the passion of sin (Proverbs 5:1-14). Many other prices could be mentioned such as: family, friends, false doctrine, and laziness. Ask yourself this one question: for what do you sell your soul?

Man cannot afford to lose his soul. If he loses it, he has lost EVERYTHING. It is possible to gain fame, fortune, and wealth in this life and give your soul away. When this happens God sees man’s life as a failure. However, to save your soul through the gospel of Jesus is seen by God as a wonderful success. *“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 16:24-28 eph. Added bh).

**Billy Hayes from Vigil**

*Be here each night for our...*

## Family Bible Studies

*Five Evenings of Bible Studies for All Ages*

**July 27 – 31, 2009**

**7 – 9 p.m. each evening**

### ***“Fishing With The Master”***

**Monday .....“Be Fishers of Men”**

**Tuesday ..... “Prepare To Share”**

**Wednesday ..... “Go Fish The World”**

**Thursday ..... “Fish With Power”**

**Friday ..... “Love The Fisher’s Catch”**

**Live Webcast at: <http://olathecoc.org>**

**Jim O’Connor – Adult Class Teacher**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Cindy Nelson, 07-19; Chelsea Nelson, 07-23.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Ralph Franklin; Jared Nelson (AM); Millie Robertson (PM); Steven and Debbie Schleif.

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson.

Marion Stone is in the Hoeger House for rehabilitation and is being treated for a blood clot in her leg.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## **HOME BOUND**

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Cleo Stone is at home. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

The Brown family was in Harper, Kansas last Sunday morning after attending a funeral for Steve's aunt. Chelsea Nelson was visiting relatives in Newton, Kansas last Sunday. The Carter's returned from their vacation early last week. Chris Edwards was away on business in Chicago last week. George Thomas was in Nebraska Wednesday night on business. Robin Brown was away during last week on business. Chelsea Nelson, Erin Stillwell, Lauren Brown and Taylor Nemechek will be attending Little Blue Bible Camp this week. Leah S. Thrasher will also be at Little Blue Bible Camp this week serving as one of the cooks.

## **FBS COOKIES**

There is a cookie signup sheet in the foyer for our upcoming FBS on July 27-31. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to provide refreshments!

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 39; Sunday PM, 33; Wednesday PM, 35.

## **Those To Serve**

July 19, 2009

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Chris Edwards**  
**PRESIDE..... Steve Brown**  
**ASSIST..... Jared Nelson**  
**ASSIST..... Steven Schleif**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Cody Carter**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Joel Nelson**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Steve Brown**

### **WEDNESDAY 22nd**

**SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown**  
**INVITATION ..... Trent Thrasher**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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