

Maybe We Cannot Save Everyone, But We Can Save Someone!

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The value of one soul is incalculable. In trying to impress this truth upon our souls the Savior said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 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?" (Mt. 16:25-26).

By saving our life we lose it, surely points to the unalterable fact that self gratification in this life terminates in total loss eternally. Please take note of supplemental teaching along this same line of thinking. Peter urged, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (I Pet. 2:11). John stated, "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (I Jn. 5:19). Paul wrote, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end" (Heb. 3:12-14). Again, Peter said, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (II Pet. 2:20-22).

Never should we "shake off" the impact of Paul's soul-stirring admonition to our minds, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from

heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (II Thess. 1:7-9). And, why? Because "the value of one soul is incalculable."

By losing our life we find it, surely points to the undeniable fact that self sacrifice in this life ultimately yields eternal joy and reward. No better example of this truth exists than that of our Lord, who "being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:6-8). Because Jesus was willing to lose his life he found it: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (vv. 9-11).

Please consider the following inspired reading: "And you hath he quickened [did he make alive, ASV], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation [once lived, ASV] in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath

Truly, the value of one soul is incalculable, especially when that soul is mine!

quicken us together [made us alive together, ASV] with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:1-7).

6,500,000,000 people now live in this world. Maybe we cannot save everyone, but we can save someone! The searching personal question is "who will it be for me?" Is my spouse a Christian? Upon whom do I exert greater influence? If I am a Christian husband and my wife is not a Christian, is she given the opportunity to see me doing the things Christians do like reading my Bible daily and often appearing before the throne of God in prayer? Are my personal habits free of defilement? Is there any question where I will be when the church meets? Have I related the gospel of Jesus Christ to her? How am I doing fulfilling the role of leadership given me from heaven in my home?

"Who will it be for me?" Is my best friend a Christian? Since I can share such a wide ranging array of personal interests with him or her, have we ever talked about the Bible together? Do I like to pretend I wouldn't even know where to start such a discussion? How long shall I try to fool myself into thinking spiritual subjects would be inappropriate to discuss? Do I know what my friend's spiritual values are? Have I written him or her off without even trying to discuss the scriptures with him?

"Who will it be for me?" Have I knocked on my neighbor's door and said, "You know we're neighbors, and I wanted to invite you to visit one of our Bible classes where I worship"? Or, "Say, you know it is bothering me that those Jehovah's Witnesses—or Mormons—were going door-to-door through our neighborhood the other day, and I wanted to see if you would like to hear a brief rebuttal to their erroneous views?" Surely I am not lacking in enough courage to invite my co-workers at lunch to attend a Bible lectureship or other Bible study.