

YOUR SOUL
Text: Luke 12:20

INTRO: In the early 1800's, Alexander Stephens challenged Benjamin Hill, another Georgia statesman, to a duel. Hill declined, telling Steph-ens, "I have a family to support and a soul to save."

The rich farmer in Christ's parable neglected the salvation of his soul. He was not lost because he was rich, but because he was not rich toward God, Luke 12:21.

I. WHAT IS YOUR SOUL?

A. The Hebrew & Greek words translated "soul" have several meanings & shades of meaning, as does the English word. But most commonly, we use the term to describe the immaterial part of man--the part of man that thinks, believes, hopes, loves, hates, etc.

B. The soul lives on beyond physical death.
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 & body in hell. (Matt. 10:28).

READ LUKE 12:4-5

C. The soul is the inner man. READ 2 COR. 4:16-5:4

D. We frequently say--even the Bible says, we have a soul. But the more literal expression would be that we ARE a soul, and that we have a body.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, & loses his own soul? (Mark 8:36).

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, & is himself destroyed or lost? (LK 9:25).

E. The soul is of supreme value.
1. Worth more than the whole world.
a. What profit if we lose it?
b. What would we give to buy it back in the day of judgment?

NOTE: Not what will one exchange his soul for in the here & now. Sometimes \$1 or less. 15 minutes of pleasure. Title. A moment of fame... But in the day of judgment, we would gladly give all this & more if we could buy it back.

2. The soul is worth the price paid for it. 1 Cor. 6:20. You were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ... (1 Peter 1:18-19).

II. THE DANGER THAT THREATENS OUR SOULS--SIN.

A. Adam was told, don't eat. You eat, you die.

1. Death always involves a separation. Dead in sin, dead to sin.
2. Physical death--Adam lived 930 years & died. 5:5
3. Spiritual death--He died the day he ate-2:17; Isa 59:2
4. Eternal death--spiritual death extended into eternity.

B. Ezekiel reiterated the truth Adam & Eve learned in the dawn of time, Ezek. 18:20. You sin, you die.

C. Paul shows that in this gospel age the eternal truth is still true--the wages of sin is death, Rom. 6:23.

D. It is not the number of sins that determine the wages--or the category of sin, or the time we spend engaging in it. None of these things change the wages.

III. JESUS CAME TO SAVE THAT WHICH HAS BEEN LOST, MARRED, "DESTROYED" BY SIN.

- A. To seek & save the lost (destroyed), Luke 19:10.
- B. To dispense life in abundance, John 10:10.
- C. To preach & bear witness to the truth.
[Jesus] said to [His apostles], "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." (Mark 1:38).

MARK 16:15-15. He meant it!
Acts 2:36-38. The Holy Spirit meant it!

1. Will some be lost because they fail to be baptized?
No. They will be lost because they sinned. Sin is the problem. Obedience to the gospel is the solution to the problem.
2. In years past, from time to time the disease of malaria has taken many lives. Medical scientists discovered that quinine could be used to successfully treat that disease. There were, of course some who did not receive the treatment & they died. As doctors were called to pronounce them dead & fill out the death certificate they filled in the blank for "cause of death," "malaria." They NEVER attributed the cause of death to "lack of quinine." The death was caused by malaria. Quinine was the remedy. It was in no way responsible for the death.

CONCLUSION: Our soul is the most important, the most costly, the most valuable commodity we have anything to do with. It is severely threatened & endangered by our sins. But Jesus came to seek & save our lost souls. His gospel is the remedy we need. That remedy must be applied, or else we will die in our sins. John 8:21.

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