



Global College of Ministry

EXPLAIN

The Christian and the Soul

Soul Value (Part I)

“How much better and of more value is a man than a sheep!” (Matthew 12:12, *AMP*).

“You are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31, *NKJV*).

We often hear people speak of the “fair market value” of a manufactured product or its “retail value.” We also hear of “wholesale value” or “trade-in value.” But, have you ever heard of “soul value”? Let me state my conviction up front: nothing is more valuable than a person’s soul. Think about it. What is the most important and precious thing today? It is life itself!

Studies have been conducted to determine the monetary value of mineral and chemical elements found in the human body. Together, their value is less than one dollar. Our most valuable asset is our skin. Based on the selling price of cowhide, the value of an average person’s skin is about \$3.50. Total monetary value per person equals \$4.50. But we are made up of more than oxygen, calcium, sodium, iron, zinc, copper, and about fourteen other minerals and chemicals. We are body, soul, and spirit. Simply put, we have eternal value. We are priceless. We are not for sale. We have already been bought by the precious blood of the crucified Lamb.

There are three things that will last for eternity.

- ❖ God
- ❖ Word of God
- ❖ Souls of men

We need to invest our lives with eternity in view. God places great value on a lost soul (John 3:16). It was for this reason that Jesus came into the world. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). In one short sentence Jesus described His purpose—“to seek and to save.” He also explained His target group—the lost. We remain on the earth to finish the task. Before He left, He said, “As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21). There are two things you can do on earth that cannot be done in heaven: sin and win the lost. I think we both know which we are supposed to be doing. Right?

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16).

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). I once tried to teach this verse to my little girl. She kept getting

hung up on “begotten.” She would say, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only *forgotten* Son...” Really, it was good theology. God loved us so much that He forgot Himself, robed Himself in flesh, and came

and dwelled among us (John 1:1-14). Jesus paid the price on Calvary for our redemption. “For God bought you with a high price” (1 Corinthians 6:20, *NLT*). The songwriter said, “He paid a debt He did not owe. I owed a debt I could not pay. I needed someone to wash my sins away.” If God was willing to pay such an enormous cost imagine how valuable a lost soul must be in His sight.

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18). There are three types of lost souls:

- ❖ Willful Rejectors
- ❖ Indifferent Neglectors
- ❖ Unknowingly Ignorant

The first two groups have heard. One chose to reject the gospel; the other to neglect it. They will be lost and condemned because they heard but did not believe. The third will be lost having never heard the gospel at all; therefore did not believe. How sad. All are lost. All need to be found. All need the opportunity to hear the gospel at least once.

What possession do you have that you consider of great value? What would you do if you lost it? Your mind would not be at rest. You would abandon everything you are doing and search for your valuable possession (until you found it).

If you took a new (currency) note and offered it to a group of people, would anyone accept it? Yes, because everyone knows the value of money. If you took the note and wadded it up, would

anyone still want it? Yes, because the value did not change. If the note were spit upon, would people still want it? Yes, the value still has not changed. Throw the note down and stomp it into the ground. Would anyone take it now? Yes, there still would be takers. Why? The note still has the same value.

The Bible used the term “lost” to describe those who are away from God and will perish if they are not found and saved. A lost soul has tremendous value to Jesus Christ. It will never lose its worth. No matter how deep in sin a soul may get, no matter how filthy he may become, a soul never loses its value. How much value do you place on a lost soul?

J. Oswald Sanders in *Effective Evangelism* gives the following ways that the value of the soul can be calculated?

- ❖ By its nature and origin (Genesis 1:27)
- ❖ By the duration of its existence (Matthew 25:46)
- ❖ By the cost of its redemption (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- ❖ By the struggle required for its possession (Matthew 12:29)

“But go rather to the lost...And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 10:6-7).

Discussion Exercises:

1. Have you ever experienced the terror of being lost? Describe the occasion. How did you feel? Alone? Afraid? Disoriented?
2. Call a volunteer, blindfold him, and direct him around the room. Ask, “What feelings are you experiencing?”
3. What type of feelings does a lost soul experience? List them on the board or in your lesson notes.
4. How do we know evangelism is the priority of the Church?
5. Study your yearly or quarterly calendar and determine the percentage or number of evangelistic outreach activities compared with those designed for in-reach.

Study Questions

1. Explain the monetary value of mineral and chemical elements in the human body.
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2. List three (3) things that will last for eternity.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

3. In one short sentence, describe Jesus' purpose for coming into the world. Support your answer with Scripture.

4. List the three types of lost souls.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

5. List (with Scripture reference) the four (4) ways the value of the soul can be calculated (according to J. Oswald Sanders in his book *Effective Evangelism*.)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Additional Notes

Soul Value (Part 2)

“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?” (Matthew 16:26, *NLT*).

Evangelism is our main concern. Proclaim the gospel. Win the lost to Christ. Bringing someone to Him requires time, effort, and financial investment. Is it worth it? Jesus thought so. I refer to Luke 15 as “The Lost Chapter.” Notice it follows the “God of the Full House” account. “And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them, to come in that my house may be filled” (Luke 14:23). Luke 15 tells three short stories of things lost. The discerning reader will even find a fourth. The chart that follows reveals things lost and the value they represented.

Things Lost	Things Represented:
Lost Lamb	Livelihood
Lost Coin	Life’s Savings
Lost Son	A family’s investment in a life

Jesus gave these parables in response to sharp criticism from scribes and Pharisees. They were shocked that Jesus spent so much time with sinners and ate with them. They gave Him a tough time. They reasoned, “You can tell the character of a man by looking at the company he keeps!” “You show me your friends and I’ll show you what type of person you are.” This chapter highlights our invitation to rejoice with God as sinners are reached; and to follow the Master’s example in aggressively seeking for the lost. The religious leaders had missed the point because of their maintenance mindset: *Sinners were those Jesus came to reach*. He recognized their soul value and sought to reclaim them for the kingdom. They embodied His purpose in dropping into our world. He came for those that needed help. The following chart represents the needs unveiled in “The Lost Chapter.”

Lost Sheep	Out of safety	Needed a shepherd
Lost Coin	Out of circulation	Needed to be put back into circulation
Lost Son	Out of fellowship	Needed to be in fellowship with the Father. (Adapted from Warren Wiersbe’s <i>Expository Outlines on the New Testament</i>)

Jesus set his listeners up. “Wouldn't you leave...and *go* after the lost one *until* you found it?” (Luke 15:4, *MSG, Emphasis Mine*). The answer was obvious to the spectators. In each of the three stories someone searched non-stop for the lost. We give up too easily. God, give us a spirit of endurance and diligence. Some of us are naïve enough to think that the lost should find their own way into the church. That has never been the biblical imperative. We are repeatedly admonished to, “Go!”

Each of the three stories has the following in common:

- ❖ Something Lost
- ❖ Something Sought
- ❖ Something Found
- ❖ Something Celebrated

Dr. Neil Chadwick in his sermon “Lost and Found” said, “The value of a particular item can be determined according to the amount of effort invested in finding it, if and when it becomes lost.” The emphasis in each story is not on the time it takes to find the lost, but on the value of it.

Just like the Shepherd going out into the night searching for the lost sheep, Jesus vigorously and tirelessly seeks lost souls. He expects more than our silent witness.

The lady looking thoroughly for her lost coin reminds us our search is for something valuable and costly. She used what she had. We often think we need special equipment or resources to be evangelistic. Just use what you’ve got. The woman took a candle, providing light, to increase her chances of seeing. She also used her broom to carefully sweep the vicinity. She continued to “seek diligently” until she found her valued possession (Luke 15:8).

The third story—my favorite--refers to the prodigal son. The *NIV* is more specific when it calls him the “lost son.” He takes his inheritance, spends it on worldly living, comes to himself, and returns home. In him we clearly see the basic state of mankind: rebellious and disobedient. “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son” (Luke 15:21, *NIV*). The lost son thought his value had decreased because of his sinful actions. The loving father is God and is depicted as waiting, watching, running, embracing, kissing, and rejoicing. Christianity is the only world religion that has such a loving Father who enthusiastically seeks men. The elder brother, out of touch with his father’s heartbeat, is compared to the Pharisees. His father reasoned, “But it was fitting to make merry, to revel and

feast and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and is alive again! He was lost and is found!” (Luke 15:32, *AMP*). We can hear His heart beating throughout Scripture as we read about Him saving lost souls. He is moved to compassion as He looks over a gone astray world. Evangelism is the heartbeat of God. His desire is that none of His children be lost.

“Rejoice with me...I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10, *NIV*). He didn’t specifically say angels are partying, but there is rejoicing “in the presence of the angels.” Conceivably, you have read these verses and imagined the angels breaking into a praise dance. Maybe they are. But, if the angels are not the ones rejoicing, who is? It is our caring, heavenly Father. Add to this the possibility of a wider crowd—the saints that have gone before and the great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1). One thing for sure, God celebrates when a lost soul repents; turning from the wrong path to the right one. And anything that makes God happy makes me happy too. Every service should be a celebration when we see someone repent, being baptized in Jesus name, or being filled with the Holy Ghost. Heaven is standing by. God is ready for a divine party. All that is needed is for a lost soul to be found.

Below is a summary of the conditions found in each of the narratives:

Sheep	Lost through ignorance	Lost, knew it was lost; didn’t know its way home.
Coin	Lost through carelessness or neglect of others	Lost, didn’t know it was lost; didn’t know its way home.
Son	Lost through his own willfulness	Lost, knew he was lost; knew his way home.

Reading through Luke 15 have you determined how you fit into the stories? Here’s how.

- ❖ Become the shepherd searching for the frightened lost lamb.
- ❖ Become the woman, lighting the candle of the gospel, searching for the coin insignificant to others.
- ❖ Become like the loving father anxiously praying, waiting and watching for the lost son’s return home. Get in touch with your Dad’s heartbeat!

Vance Havner wrote of the Titanic that sank in 1912. Remember, it was reputed to be

unsinkable. "The only thing it ever did was sink."

Departing from England it had all sorts of passengers aboard. There were millionaires, celebrities, middle income earners, and even poor folks. There were people from all walks of life. But a few hours after the historical disaster, when they published a list in New York, it carried only two categories—lost and saved.

In the end, all distinctions are set aside. It all comes down to – lost or saved. Or should I say, lost or found.

Study Questions

1. List the three (3) lost things found in Luke chapter 15, and the value they represented.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
2. Given the list of "lost things" found in Luke chapter 15, write what each of them needed.
 - 1) Lost sheep – out of safety _____
 - 2) Lost coin – out of circulation _____
 - 3) Lost son – out of fellowship _____
3. List the four (4) things each of the three stories in Luke chapter 15 have in common.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
4. List three ways it is possible for us to become part of the three stories found in Luke chapter 15.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

Believing to the Saving of the Soul (Hebrews 10:39)

"...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

...and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."

Acts 16: 30-31; 33-34

Repeat after me, 'I accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.' "Now, there you have it, you are now saved." How often have you heard this said? How often have you said it yourself? This thinking expresses, "only believe and you will be saved." There are several problems with this type of thinking.

Accepting Jesus or Jesus Accepting

First of all, like A. W. Tozer once said, it requires that Jesus would "stand hat-in-hand awaiting our verdict on Him, instead of kneeling with troubled hearts awaiting his verdict on us." The picture here depicts Jesus standing before you, the judge, having looked at all the evidence, and waiting (and hoping) that you will give the verdict, "I believe. I accept." Man is like that; he always wants to be in control. Yes, we have been given the freedom to make our own decisions, but it is God who is in control. Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you..." (John 15:16) He later said, "...but I have chosen you out of the world..." (John 15:19) It is God who will judge us. Paul said that the Lord is the "Righteous Judge." (2 Timothy 4:8) "...The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:30-31)

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement." (Hebrews 9:27)

A missionary was trying to translate the Bible into one of the local dialects. He was working on the Book of John and was confused on how to translate the word "believe." He asked a national working with him on the translation team. They finally came up with the solution. The word that was given meant "the heat in my heart." This "heat in your heart" will cause you to do something. The word "believe" in many cases in the Bible is an action word (verb). It is speaking about action.

In James 2 we find an entire chapter on faith (believing) producing action (works). James reveals that true faith is evidenced by obeying the Word of God (James 1); by action (James 2); and by words (James 3). James 2:19 reveals a surprise believer.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

Do you think that the devils’ believing will make salvation for them? The devils will not be saved and will be cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:10) However, the devils believe more than some of us. They are doing as much as some churches say it takes to get saved. They just believe.

The devil knows that we like to have everything “the easy way” so he would like us to believe part of the truth and leave the rest. Daniel Mena in his tract, There is More To Being Saved Than Easy Believism states that a “half-truth is more dangerous than an outright lie. Only the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth will save a man or woman from sin.” He later counsels, “Eternity is too long to be wrong!”

E. L. Cole in his book, Strong Men In Tough Times, states “a person’s beliefs hold the greatest potential for good or harm in life. What is believed about God holds the potential for death or life everlasting.” He admonishes us that “...we must be taught not only to believe but to believe right...belief is the basis for conduct, character and destiny. Wrong conduct is based on wrong believing.” This is because believing produces action. A person who steals believes that he will not get caught. A person who always involves himself in fornication believes that he will not get AIDS.

To “believe” is to commit ourselves to Jesus Christ, considering that he is worthy of our trust and can be counted on to keep his promises. John said, “But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” (John 20:31) This Scripture comes immediately following Doubting Thomas meeting with Jesus Christ. Jesus tells him, “...be not faithless, but believing.” (John 20:27) Thomas responded, “My Lord and my God.” (John 20:28)

When we believe, we entrust and commit ourselves totally to Jesus Christ. It involves a total commitment on our part. “...For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

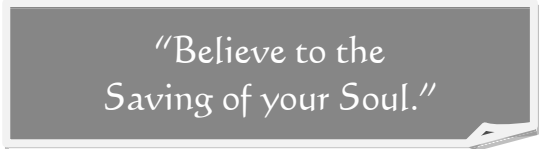
“If you are what you have always been, you are not a Christian. A Christian is a new creation.”

Simon the Sorcerer “believed” and was even baptized in Jesus name. (Acts 8:13,16)

“Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.” (Acts 8:13)

Do you think that Simon was saved? He started out believing, was baptized in Jesus name but then started looking, wondering, and beholding the miracles instead of putting his trust and confidence in the God of miracles.

“...For thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.” (Acts 8:21-23)



“Believe to the
Saving of your Soul.”

When we read the whole story we see that Peter and John came down and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Ghost. There was at least one in the group who didn't receive it; Simon the Sorcerer. He offered money to receive the power to lay hands on people to receive the Holy Ghost.

Why didn't Simon receive the Holy Ghost? The baptism of the Holy Ghost cannot be given to someone who still follows sinful ways. The Holy Ghost is given to those who turn from sin and wickedness.

Peter's Analysis of the Situation

1. “...Thy money perish with thee.” (Acts 8:20) Is someone that is perishing saved?
2. “Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter...” (Acts 8:21) Why not? Because, a person living in sin and wickedness cannot receive the Holy Ghost.
3. “...Thy heart is not right in the sight of God.” (Acts 8:21) Is someone whose heart is not right with God saved?
4. “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness...” (Acts 8:22) Is someone that is wicked saved?
5. “For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.” (Acts 8:23) Is someone in the bondage of iniquity saved?

Simon was not right in his heart, and had not totally committed his life to Jesus. Therefore, God rejected him. God accepts those that fear him and work righteousness (Acts 10:35) Simon believed, but we do not have a record that he believed to the saving of his soul.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Study Questions

1. What did A. W. Tozer say that the common view of accepting the Lord requires of Jesus?

2. Give two examples of those that believed in the Scriptures and still were not saved.

3. How did one missionary translate the word "believe" in the local dialect? _____

4. What did Edward Cole say about a person's beliefs? _____

5. According to James, how is believing (or faith) evidenced? _____

6. What was Peter's analysis of Simon the Sorcerer? _____

7. Is it possible for someone whose heart is not right with God to receive the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? _____

8. What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 say? _____

