

The Value of A Soul

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Introduction: What is important or valuable?

Today's movies and media all place a high degree of value on accumulating wealth and things, like expensive houses, fancy cars and technological gadgets, rather than looking at the value of man.

In fact, there is a lot of hype out there claiming that man is a problem, a cancer causing the demise of the world through overpopulation straining the world's resources and pollution poisoning the earth. There are people who say that having more than one child is selfish because of the strain that mankind is putting on the earth. In fact, some say man should be wiped out!

The Book 1: Life

Let's look at Genesis 2: 7 "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

This shows us that God created man and then "breathed into him the breath of life". So, from the beginning, man had no life until GOD breathed life into him.

Now let's look at Psalm 139: 13 & 14. "For you created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well." This shows us that GOD knit us together, that He designed and made us. Even more, this lets us know that we are "fearfully (awesomely) and wonderfully made by HIS hand. HE planned for each one of us before the foundation of time. If GOD made us, individually, and planned for each one of us, how can we consider that life has no value or meaning?

Let's look at this further by reading Ezekiel 18: 4. "For everyone belongs to Me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to Me. The one who sins is the one who will die." GOD made us. We are wonderfully made. Now we see that we belong to GOD. GOD, being perfect could never create too many people, therefore there is no way we are suffering overpopulation. The problem is not over-population, the problem is not man-kind, the problem is the health of the soul.

The Book 2 - Value

So, what is the worth of a soul? Most people do not comprehend the value of the soul.

Look around the world today, people do not place any value on the soul. It's easy to fall into thinking that it's all about getting more money, more stuff, better stuff! Society forces this way of thinking!

But if we look at Matthew 16: 26 "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" we start to understand the value of a soul.

Bang! Right there! Done! This says it all. Clearly, a soul is worth more than anything, worth more than everything in the world. Success can not be measured by riches. Nothing is worth more than the soul. Your soul is the most valuable thing you have.

Luke 15: 4-7 backs up the value of a soul. "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Do you get that? GOD left the 99 to come after you! That's how valuable your soul is to GOD!

The Book 3 - The Nagging Emptiness

So, how is it that we don't see the value of what we have? This emptiness feeling can come over us, no matter our age, our occupation, our family, or no matter where we live. People say, "I just can't figure it out." or "I can't put my finger on why I feel down.". This pervasive dissatisfaction with life, is caused by not understanding the basic value of a person, a soul. There are people that are full of a deep, dark, emptiness!

David understood this. Psalm 42: 1-2 "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" explains that we are all built with this inner need to be with our God, and that we will always experience this hopeless emptiness without HIM. Only GOD can meet the need we have.

So what is your soul? The Hebrew word for soul is "nephesh" and it **literally means** "breath". It refers to the entire weight of you, your inner being, your way of thinking and being, your cognitive process. Your soul is the imprint of the image of GOD in you! Your soul is that eternal part of you.

The Book 4 - Finding Rest and Peace

So now you know what your soul is. You know it's value. Now this is a good one...how do you find rest for your soul?

Jeremiah knew the answer. He had a heart for this. Jeremiah 6: 16 "This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

We live in a day when the old things are discarded and thought to be worthless. We need to go back to the old ways. We need to forsake all the modern "free-thinking" and abandon the new age ideals of material success and just go back to the old ways of finding happiness with what you have. Finding contentment in being what GOD has made you.

People will say, that was fine in the past, but things are different now, but that's not so. We are still facing the same trials and temptations now as they did back then. They may be packaged differently and present themselves in different ways, but it's all the same troubles man has always faced. It all comes from the same root. It just looks a bit different.

Now I want to read you Psalm 23. Just soak in this wonderful, beautiful Psalm. "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake. Even

though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

GOD actually restores my soul! He restores my soul from anguish, from pain, from failure, from loneliness, from fear! HE restores my soul, not some 12 step program, not some TV healer, not some drug! they only sweep the problem under the carpet where it is forgotten for a while until some circumstance brings it back out in the open, and leaves you where you don't know where to start over again.

Proverbs 16: 24 instructs us. "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."

If we are gracious with our families, and our brothers and sisters in Christ, we all benefit. If we are gracious with those who aggravate us, or with unbelievers, we take them off guard. They don't expect it. They cannot understand why or how we do it. Eventually they will ask us why we are able to do this, and it leaves the door open for Jesus to enter their lives.

If we follow Jesus, we are gracious. Grace heals the soul, and the soul is valuable above all else.

Matthew 11:28 reminds us that everyone who comes to Jesus will find rest for the soul ""Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." This is Jesus talking. This is beautiful.

Matthew 11: 29 has Jesus urging us to "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls". Jesus was meek and lowly. HE did not strut HIS stuff. If we learn from HIM, we will also be meek and humble, and we will find rest and refreshment for our weary soul.

Conclusion:

We are all made in the image of GOD. HE ordained us all to be here on the earth. HE gave every single one of us the breath of life. We must be diligent to protect our soul. We must remember that salvation and rest come from GOD alone.

Remember that GOD considers our soul more valuable than anything else.

Jesus died for you, to save your soul. HE left the 99 and thought of you on the cross. This is a sacred promise you can depend on today, just as when HE first spoke it. You can trust in it.

What should you do?

Leave here today differently! Walk differently! Know you are more valuable than the earth you walk on. You are more valuable than anything else on the earth.

Share this knowledge with others!! Let them know how much GOD values their souls!!!!