

The Value of a Soul

Billy Graham

I. Discipleship means denying self and taking up the cross to follow Jesus. (Mark 8:34-38)

A. What shall it profit a man if he gains the world but loses his own soul?

1. What is the value of clean water and air?
2. What is the value of another year of life? In the face of death?
3. What is the value of our minds or our health?
4. God has more value on your soul and spirit than anything.
 - a. The soul is more precious than education, or money, or possessions.
 - b. If we had everything it does not compare to one soul.
 - c. The soul of a man is the man.
 - d. Once we lose our soul we can't regain it.

B. What is the soul and why is it valuable?

1. The soul is valuable because it is the real you that is eternal.
 - a. The body is matter and will die.
 - b. The soul will live forever.
 - c. The soul is the essence of who we are.
 - 1) Mind
 - 2) Will
 - 3) Personality
 - d. The body is the house in which the soul lives.
 - e. The eternal condition of the soul is determined by the decisions we make now.
 - f. God offers eternal life to every soul that trusts in Jesus Christ.
2. The soul is valuable because of God's concern for it.
 - a. The Bible is concerned with saving and developing the soul.

- b. God wills that none perish but come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)
- c. God commends his love toward us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

3. The soul is valuable because of the nature of its loss.

- a. It is tragic to lose friends.
- b. It is tragic to lose health or character.
- c. What we lose in this life we cannot take with us.
- d. Possessions do not bring peace and happiness.
- e. It is tragic to lose life and to perish in Hell.

1) There are mysteries about Hell, but it is terrible.

2) It is outer darkness. (Matthew 8)

3) It is also a place where we remember, which makes it extra tragic. (Luke 16)

4) There is no way out of Hell.

f. Life has two roads; broad and narrow,

1) The broad way leads to destruction.

2) The narrow way leads to eternal life.

3) God has prepared wonderful things for those who love Him.

4) You must commit to Him, however, and follow Christ.

4. The soul is valuable because of the price Christ paid in redemption.

a. We were not redeemed by silver and gold but by the blood of Christ.

b. No one knows how much time we have to live.

1) Many songs in popular music deal with death, even more than sex.

c. What can a man give in exchange for his soul?

1) God is giving you an opportunity to confront your own mortality.

2) Your eternal soul is the most valuable thing you possess.

3) If you lose it nothing can replace it.

d. Come and receive Christ as your Savior.

1. You can know for certain that you are going to heaven.
2. Confess you sin to God.
3. Say yes to Jesus and know for sure where you stand.
4. Today is the day of salvation; we have no guarantee of tomorrow.

C. Pray this salvation prayer out loud.

1. God, I am a sinner.
2. I am sorry for my sin and am willing to turn from it.
3. I receive Christ as my Savior.
4. I confess Christ as Lord and choose to serve Him.
5. From this moment on I want to follow Him in the fellowship of His church.
6. I pray in Christ's name, amen.