

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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The Price of Things versus The Value of Things

Vernon Teagarden

From the Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations we read the following entitled: "Churchill Priced Too Low."

"Winston Churchill achieved national prominence through his activities in the Boer War at the age of twenty-five. He was taken prisoner, but two weeks later he escaped. His enemies hunted him and even set a price on his head. Handbills were distributed that described the young soldier, journalist, and adventurer.

'Englishman, 25 years old, about five feet eight inches tall, indifferent build, walks with a forward stoop, pale appearance, red-brownish hair, small and hardly noticeable mustache, talks through his nose and cannot pronounce the letter s properly.'

Churchill didn't seem to mind the less than complimentary description, but he did resent the fact that the price was only twenty-five pounds! Evidently the folks at home thought the assessment low, too, because his exploits became widely known and he was heralded as a national hero and later won a seat in Parliament."

I found this article to be interesting but also causing me to think about the price of things versus the value of things.

Someone has said that we are living in a world where people know the price of everything and the value of little. Perhaps there is a kernel of truth found in that statement. I know this is often true when contemplating spiritual things versus worldly things. We seem to be a society where little thought is given to the real value of spiritual matters; and a great deal of emphasis is placed on things of the world.

Jesus warns us about this in Matthew 6:19-21, where He states, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." There

is a stark contrast seen between heavenly things and earthly things. Earthly things, although often "cost" a great deal, and in earthly terms, seem valuable, are actually not of much real value. And if gained and used properly are not of much danger to us. However, we must realize that unlike heavenly treasure, there is an uncertainty attached to earthly or worldly things. They can be lost as easily as they are gained; and then of what real lasting value are they to us?

There is security attached to the treasures one lays up in heaven and they are not subject to, nor, threatened by the things that threaten earthly possessions. As J. W. McGarvey said in his commentary on Matthew about these verses, "No man who pauses a single moment for reflection can fail to realize it."

Further, Jesus teaches us that we are stewards of something that is of far more value than anything this world has to offer. He said, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26) What is there of the world that is of more value than a man's soul? What is there of the world that is of more value than your soul? What will you give in exchange for your soul?

There is a story of a rich young ruler, recorded for us in Matthew 19, who came to Jesus wanting to know what good thing he could do that he may have eternal life? To me, the story illustrates the point Jesus is making in Matthew 16:26.

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Service Times:

Sunday: 10 am, 10:50am; 6:00pm

Wednesday: 7:30 pm

In Matthew 19, after the question is asked of Jesus by the young man, Jesus answers him saying, “If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.” (v. 21)

Now notice the response given to Jesus by the young man. “But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” (v. 22)

Would you agree with me that this young man was indeed exchanging his riches for his soul? In his mind perhaps he had gained or was in the process of gaining the whole world, so to speak; yet, losing his own soul.

Now a word of caution: It doesn't necessarily have to be riches that we are exchanging for our soul. No, it could be any number of worldly matters or concerns that keep us from placing value upon spiritual things. Whatever that may be, if we are allowing them to hinder us spiritually then it is that which we are exchanging for our soul.

Let us learn, not just the price of things, but the real value of things. Especially the value of heavenly treasures versus earthly treasures.

Give careful consideration to these things!

HE IS OUR DELIVERER

Vernon Teagarden

Psalm 70 is a prayer Psalm of David's written asking God to deliver him from those who sought his life, or at the very least, do him harm. Three times in the Psalm David asks for God to come quickly to his rescue. (v.1) - “Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord.” Again, in (v. 5) - “Make haste to me, O God...O Lord, do not delay.”

David, a man after God's own heart, was rescued several times by God. From Saul several times (1 Sam. 18, 19, 23). From a bear and a lion (1 Sam. 17); and from Goliath (1 Sam. 17).

Like David, we too have been “rescued,” or delivered by the Lord. Not from a bear or lion, not from a man like Saul or even a Goliath; but from that serpent of old, Satan, who is like a lion walking to and fro seeking whom he may devour,” as Peter has said in 1 Pet. 5:8.

Paul said that, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8) We have been rescued by the “King of Kings” and the “Lord of Lords,” having been rescued from this “body of death, as Paul said in Rom. 7:24. Further, we have been freed from the bondage of sin and the fear of death. (Heb. 2:15)

We need to be thankful for God as our deliverer, Who was willing to give His only begotten Son for us (Jn. 3:16), in order that we might be rescued from sin and enjoy a relationship with Him here and home with Him after this life is over.

Again, give careful consideration to these things!

The Dawn of Faith

I prayed for faith, thinking that some day faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, “Now faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

I had closed my Bible and prayed for faith. After that, I opened my Bible and began to study—and faith has been growing ever since.— - Dwight L. Moody, “church bulletin bits” # 4, p. 11