

Mk 8.36-37—The Greatest Loss of All

There's an incomparable value to a man's soul, v.36

- I. The eternal life and salvation of a man's soul is a matter of such worth and excellence that nothing can be compared to it.
- II. Eternal life and salvation are the very blessings which following Christ secures and denying Christ forfeits.
- III. The great worth and value of a man's soul can be seen:
 - A. In the greatness of the soul itself, Js 2.26; Gen 2.7.
 - B. In the greatness of Heaven, which the Christian soul enjoys when it departs the body, 2Cor 5.8; 1Pet 1.4; 2Cor 4.17; Phil 3.14; 2Tim 4.8; 1Pet 5.4; Rev 21.3; Rev 21.27; 22.15; Phil 1.23.
 - C. In the greatness of the price which God paid for its redemption: 1Pet 1.18-19; Acts 20.28.
- IV. How excellent then is any and all labor done for the salvation of a single soul, 2Tim 2.9-10; 1Tim 3.1; Heb 13.17; 1Tim 5.17; 1Cor 9.22; Isa 55.10-11; Gal 6.9; 1Cor 15.58.
- V. How grievous a sin is anything whatsoever which hinders the salvation of a single soul, Mk 9.42; Ezk 3.18; Rom 14.15; 1Pet 5.8.

The loss of the soul is the greatest loss of all, v.37

- I. Presupposing that a man has denied Him and forfeited his eternal soul, Christ goes on to ask in v.37, *what can a man give in return for his soul?*
- II. A man can give nothing to ransom his soul once it's lost:
 - A. Because the lost soul has been imprisoned in hell until Judgment Day, Rev 20.13-15; Lk 16.26.
 - B. Because of the insufficiency of the world to redeem it, v.38.

- C. Because it's the loss of God's eternal favor and countenance, Pr 1.24-31.
 - D. Because it's the loss of all offers of mercy, salvation, and refuge in Christ, Lk 16.26.
- III. It's lamentable to see so many carry on in life and make no provision for their invaluable souls, Mt 10.28; Lk 16.25.
 - A. Like the people in Noah's day, they carry on while Judgment Day hastens, ignoring the signs of the times, Lk 17.26-30.
 - B. They foolishly presume to call upon God on their deathbeds, Pr 27.1; Jn 4.35.
 - IV. It's foolish to see so many pursue the things of this momentary life to the neglect of their eternal soul.
 - A. Making provision for this life but not for the life to come.
 - B. Making provision for their bodies but not their souls.
 - V. We should be diligent to make provision for our souls.
 - A. We should highly prize the means of grace, Ps 19.10-11.
 - B. We should eagerly hasten to God's House, Ps 122.1-2; 138.1-3.
 - C. We should zealously guard the Lord's Day, Isa 58.13-14.
 - D. We should strive to enter in at the narrow gate, for Christ said there will be few who find it, Mt 7.13-14; Lk 13.24.
 1. Rutherford, "Men come to Zion by ones and twos but they go to hell by the thousands."
 - VI. What praise we owe to God and thanks to Christ, for the salvation of our souls, Ps 103.1-5!