

# THE LOSS OF THE SOUL AND GAIN OF THE WORLD CONTRASTED

Mark 8: 36 - 37

Sermon by Donald Townsley

## INTRODUCTION

1. I cannot think of two more important questions for man to think about than these.
2. They have to do with the value of the soul and the possibility of losing it.
3. They point up the fact that if man loses his soul he has lost ALL.
4. Let us study the contrast in verse 36.

## I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ONE TO LOSE HIS SOUL?

1. It does not mean it will be annihilated -- the soul of man is immortal -- it lives forever -- Matt. 25:46; Matt. 10:28
2. The lost soul is excluded from light, peace, rest and the glory of heaven.  
(1) Matt. 13:42; Matt. 25:30; Rev. 20:10
3. The lost soul is excluded from God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the angels and the redeemed saints of God -- Rev. 20:14 - 15; Rev. 21:3
4. The lost soul is without "eternal life" -- Mark 10:28 - 30; Matt. 25:46; I John 2:25  
(1) "Eternal life" is not simply living forever -- the wicked will have eternal existence--they will forever be conscious but their form of live is not called "eternal life".  
(2) Eternal life is a state of bliss into which the righteous go after the judgment -- Rev. 2:7; 22:14; John 5:29

## II. THINGS THAT CAUSE ONE TO LOSE HIS SOUL

1. The soul may be lost through infidelity and atheism.  
(1) Many say there is no God; they are fools -- Psa. 14:1  
(2) Those who do not believe the Word -- John 12:48  
(3) II Thess. 1:8 - 9
  2. The soul may be lost through attachment to sinful pleasures -- I John 2:15 - 17  
(1) The pleasures of sin are only for a season -- Heb. 11:25  
(2) Some of today's sinful pleasures that are nothing are wantonness and reveling filled with sensual lusts -- Gal. 5:19 - 21
    1. The modern dance
    2. Petting
    3. Mixed swimming
    4. Immodest dress -- I Tim. 2:8 - 10  
(1) II Sam. 11:2 -- David -- "*He saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon*"; Matt. 5:28
  - (3) To sow to the flesh is to reap corruption -- Gal. 6:8  
(4) To live such lives is to cause God's wrath to come upon one -- Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:6; Rom. 2:8
3. The soul may be lost through pride of heart -- James 4:6; I Pet. 5:5 - 6  
(1) The Pharisee -- Luke 18:9 - 14

4. The soul may be lost through careless apathy.
  - (1) It is not necessary to be infidels and profane to be LOST.
  - (2) Christianity is a positive matter
    1. We must work -- Tit. 3:1; I Cor. 15:58
    2. We are in a warfare -- I Tim. 1:18; Jude 3; Eph. 6: 10 - 17
    3. It is a preparation for eternity -- Matt. 25: 1 - 13
  - (3) We must be diligent, vigilant and ready -- I Pet. 3:15; I Cor. 15:58

### III. THE QUESTION: WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?

1. The "gain" supposed -- "*The whole world*"
  - (1) To be elevated to the highest earthly dignity and greatness
  - (2) To be favored with immense treasures
  - (3) To have the whole round of earthly pleasures at his command.
  - (4) But, he would still be unhappy; his conscience would torment him; afflictions would come upon him and death would overtake him.
2. The "profit" realized.
  - (1) He had the riches of earth, but LOST the treasures of heaven -- Matt. 6: 19 - 20
  - (2) He had the pleasures of the world, BUT has lost the joys of eternity -- Rev. 21:4
  - (3) He has had the honors of men, BUT has received the everlasting contempt and vengeance of God -- Matt. 25:46; Rom. 12:19
3. The awful loss sustained
  - (1) A TOTAL loss
    1. Loss of the soul and body -- Matt. 10:28
    2. Loss of the joys of eternity -- Matt. 13:42; Mark 9: 46, 48
  - (2) This loss is IRREPARABLE
    1. It cannot be made up -- Luke 16:26
    2. Summer is ended and harvest past -- Jer. 8:20 -- "*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*"
  - (3) This loss is ETERNAL -- Matt. 25:46
    1. The lake of fire burns forever -- Rev. 20:15

### CONCLUSION

1. Let the soul have the FIRST and CHIEF care -- Matt. 6:33
2. Sacrifice ALL that renders its salvation doubtful -- Matt. 5: 29 - 30
3. Remember that "*Now is the accepted time*" -- II Cor. 6:2
4. Plan of salvation