

THE PRICE OF OUR SALVATION

INTRODUCTION:

1. We live in a world of high prices.
2. There seems to be no stopping of inflation.
3. But, this does not stop people from buying things they want.
4. The ONE THING that people want cheap is RELIGION -- They want a religion that will cost them NOTHING; no time, no money and no sacrifice.
5. Because of this attitude which many have toward religion, I think that it will be profitable for us to consider: THE PRICE OF OUR SALVATION!

I. WHAT OUR SALVATION COST:

1. It cost God His Son -- John 3:16; Rom. 5:8
2. It cost Christ the betrayal of a close friend.
 - (1) Judas had been handpicked by Jesus -- Luke 6: 13 - 16
 - (2) For three years they had been in close association with each other.
 - (3) Yet, Judas betrayed him with a kiss, the most intimate expression of love --Matt. 26: 14 - 16, 47 - 50
3. It cost Christ physical punishment prior to His trial.
 - (1) At the house of Annas, one of the Jewish officers struck Jesus with his hand -- John 18:22
 - (2) Before Caiphas the Jews spat in Jesus' face, beat Him and slapped Him -- Matt. 26: 67 - 68
 - (3) "*Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate*" -- Luke 23:11
 - (4) Pilate had Jesus scourged -- John 19:1
 - (5) The soldiers stripped Jesus, put a scarlet robe on Him, plaited a crown of thorns which they placed on His head, put a reed in His hand, and offered mocked worship to Him and spat on Him -- Matt. 27:27 - 30
4. After He had endured all these agonies they took Him outside the city and crucified Him --Heb. 13: 11 - 12; Luke 23:33
 - (1) Think of the physical and mental anguish which Jesus suffered when they nailed him to the cross.
 - (2) As He hung there the crowd hurled insults at him -- Mark 15: 29 - 30; Luke 23: 35 - 36
5. Our salvation came at a high price to Jesus:
 - (1) He had to shed His blood on the cross of Calvary in order that man's sins might be forgiven.
6. The story of the cross is a story of God's love for man.

II. THE PRICE OF SALVATION TO THOSE WHO ARE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST -- Luke 14: 26 - 33

1. Separation from the world -- II Cor. 6:17; I John 2: 15 - 17

(1) Separation from the world means giving up the things which are wrong:

1. Fornication -- Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5
2. Adultery -- Gal. 5:19
3. Drinking and Social drinking -- I Pet. 4:3
4. Use of Profanity -- Eph. 4:29
5. Vulgar talk -- Eph. 5:4
6. Gambling
7. Immodest dress -- I Tim. 2: 9 - 10
8. Drugs

(2) Christianity will cost a Christian separation from the world.

2. Christianity will also cost the Christian persecution

(1) II Tim. 3:12

(2) The man who lives the moral life the word of God demands is socially ostracized.

1. Because he does not tell filthy jokes and go to bars and office parties

(3) Because he attends all the services of the local church he is a "religious freak".

3. Our salvation also costs us time -- Eph. 5: 15 - 16

(1) There are times when the service of Jesus Christ calls the Christian away from activities which he enjoys.

4. Christianity demands that I use my life and talents in the service of God -- Matt. 25:15

(1) The talent to teach -- Heb. 5:12

(2) The talent to preach

(3) The talent to be an elder

(4) The talent to lead singing.

5. Christianity will cost the Christian money

(1) Every week faithful Christians give a pretty good portion of their income to the Lord -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2; II Cor. 8: 6 - 7

(2) God gives us the power to get wealth -- Deut 8:19

(3) The money we give to the Lord is the only money which amounts to anything.

CONCLUSION:

1. Brethren -- our salvation does not come to us cheaply

2. It does not come cheaply to God and to Christ.

3. It does not come cheaply to us.

4. The opportunity to escape hell and to live forever in heaven comes to us at a small price.

5. Friend, are you willing to make this sacrifice to live forever with God in the bliss of heaven?