

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## The Soul Is Worth It

(Jerry Fite)

The soul of man is part of man that separates from the body in death and will be united again with the body in the resurrection. Death is defined in Scripture as the body being “*apart from the spirit*” (James 2:26). When Jesus died, *his “soul” was not left in Hades*- the unseen place of departed spirits (Acts 2:27), but was united again with and animating his resurrected body. The soul or spirit of man comprises the “inward man” as distinguished from the physical and decaying outward *man* (2 Corinthians 4:16). Knowing that there is a part of us distinguished from our physical bodies, why should we pay attention to the well-being of our soul?

The soul is the most valuable possession we have. Jesus asks two thought provoking questions: “*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*” (Matthew 16:26-ESV). Jesus says a person’s soul is “his”. If one were to gain the whole world with all its riches and lose his own soul, he would not be able to boast of having a profit. No listing in the billionaire’s club could cover the fact that he had traded his most valuable posses-

sion in order to gain all the world’s riches which is of less value. How less? Once losing his soul and striving to buy it back with all of his newly obtained riches, there is nothing of equal value he can offer to buy it back. There is no cumulative amount of money that equals the value of the soul. It is truly priceless.

This week we all have the opportunity to concentrate on the valuable souls of people in our community. We are committed to sharing the gospel of Christ with every soul. The Gospel is God’s power to save men from their sins (Romans 1:16). It is the only power, for it reveals the authority of Christ who is the only true and living way unto the Father (John 14:6). All the people saved after Jesus’ authority was established through His death and resurrection, were saved after they heard the gospel and responded in obedience (Acts 2:41).

We should consider the Gospel message as of equal value to the soul for it is God’s only power to save man’s most valuable possession. This week the Gospel will be preached in all its truth and purity. Anything less is unacceptable for the soul is that valuable.

May we be busy in inviting precious souls to hear the saving Gospel. They are hearing invitations to join exercise programs, invest in gold, and attend retirement seminars. To have someone come along and invite them to hear God’s message because you care about their soul will probably stand out in their mind. “What, they do not want my money?” “Their interest is in my soul!” Maybe I should consider attending to hear the message from God’s Word.

When people heed your invitation they will receive a warm welcome by people interested in them because they value their soul. Hopefully they will sense the spirituality Paul possessed when he said, “*I seek not yours, but you. . . I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls*” (2 Corinthians 12:14-15).

By the end of this week you should feel good in being tired. Attending the services with attentiveness and spiritual joy, offering encouragement to every soul you see will be demanding. But if an interested soul heeds your invitation, resulting in the saving of his or her soul, it will be well worth all the effort - to you, and the newly saved soul.