



THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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The Value of the Soul

By: John Bunyan (From the compilation — The Riches of Bunyan)

A Loving Friend

By: A. S. Chancellor

Although the soul is the most valuable thing in the world, most people pay the least attention to it, allowing it to lie fallow while they farm the rest of their lives.

Soul-concerns are of the highest nature, and they spring from the deepest and most weighty thoughts. Those who have never yet had great and deep thoughts are strangers to soul-concerns.


The soul is capable of interacting with invisible reality, with angels, good or bad, even with the highest and supreme Being, the holy God of heaven. I told you before that God sought the soul to have it for His companion, and now I tell you that the soul is capable of communion with Him, once the darkness that sin has spread over its face is removed. The soul is an intelligent power, and it can be made to know and understand depths and heights and lengths and breadths, those high, sublime, and spiritual mysteries that only God can reveal and teach. In fact, it is capable of diving into them far deeper than words can express. This delights God, the God of glory—that He has made for Himself a creature that is capable, when opened and revealed to God’s mind, of hearing, knowing, and understanding Him.

The soul’s greatness is demonstrated by the great price that Christ paid for it with His precious blood, making it an heir of glory. We are used to valuing things according to the price that we paid for them, especially when we are convinced that we paid a fair price. Now the soul was purchased and this was its price: the Son. God’s wisdom thought this a fair price to pay for the soul’s redemption. How precious then the soul is!

Suppose a prince, or some great leader, should suddenly get down from the throne or chair of state in order to pick up and hold close to his heart something that was lying on the floor, trampled under the feet of those that were in the room. Would you expect him to do this for an old horseshoe or some trivial thing like a pin or a shoelace? No, wouldn’t you conclude that the thing for which he would go to so much trouble, would have to be a thing of very great value? Well, this is the case with Christ and the soul. Christ is the prince, His throne is in heaven, and as He sat there He saw the souls of sinners trampled under the foot of the law and death. So what did He do, but get down from his throne, stoop down to the earth, and there, since He could not have the downtrodden souls without paying for them, He laid down His life and blood for them.

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Are there difficulties in your life that you feel overwhelm you? Do you feel that you are all alone in this life and not even family and friends care? You are not alone if you said yes to these questions. I, too, have had many struggles just like these when it would seem despair would wash over and envelope me, but there is an answer!

During certain times in my life I would feel useless and worthless and great despair would wash over me. Even to this day, I have trials and battles against those feelings. The secret to winning and overcoming such feelings is Jesus Christ. Before I knew Christ, I was at the point in my life in which depression was the greatest. I had once known Jesus, but I turned from Him to serve a life of sin. As I tried to convince myself that everything was still good between me and God, I went deeper and deeper into sin. And during those lowest hours was when I realized that truly I was alone without God. I don’t mean to sound as if I had no one that cared about me, but within myself, at that time, I felt that no one cared. It was then that God again started working in my heart and life. Friend, if you are reading this and you know the Lord, I encourage and admonish you to push toward the goal. The return of the backslider is not an easy road; there were and are many things that I had to go through that I know I would not have had to go through if I had only kept God as my focus. To any who are reading this, and do not have a personal relationship with Christ, I plead with you to search for Him. “For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Matthew 7:8). As I look back at the life I lived in sin, I have deep within a conviction that I was chief among sinners. At the beginning, I told you that there was an answer to that feeling of despair and loneliness. Friend, I want you to know that the answer is Jesus! If you give your life to Him, He will become more than you ever thought a friend could be. It is true that earthly friends will forsake you, but there is one that is al-ways there. He is just standing by waiting on you to be his friend. Don’t you desire to be loved? To have a purpose in your life? Christ loves you NOW! No matter if you have yet to love Him back, it doesn’t change the fact that he loved you enough to die for you. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” ~ John 15:13

Friend, the life of a Christian may not always be easy, it will have sorrows and tears, but it is still the happiest life that a person can live. God can and will bless beyond comprehension. Search your heart and life, search the Word of God, grow nearer to Him if you know Him, and find Him if you don’t. He is waiting on you. He wants to give you a life of happiness and peace. He will be that friend that you are longing for.

The Love of Christ

By: John Bunyan (From the compilation — The Riches of Bunyan)

This is love, that God sent His Son, His darling, His Son that had never done anything wrong, His Son that always delighted Him. This is love, that He sent Him to save sinners; to save them by carrying their sins for them, by bearing their curse, by dying their death, and by feeling their sorrow. This is love, that while we were still enemies, Christ died for us; yes, this is love, for while we were still without strength, Christ died for the ungodly.

Oh, blessed Jesus, how Your suffering reveals Your love to us! And, oh, Father God, how You also expressed Your pure and exact justice when You gave Your own Son, who was wholly innocent and clean, to answer for our sins in our place. You left Him alone, separated from You for the first time, making Him cry out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” And oh, Lord Jesus, what a wonderful victory You have won over the enemies of our souls—hatred, selfishness, death, hell, and devils—when You twisted out from under their power. And not just that, but You also took captive the things that would have captured us. Now, You have prepared for us what “no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

The great Carrier of the gospel is the good Lord Jesus Christ Himself; He came and preached peace to them that the law declared war against. He offers crippled souls His peace as He presents Himself to us by these means:

He was born for us, to save our souls (Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:9-12; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Galatians 3:13; Romans 10:4; Daniel 9:24.)

He bore our sins for us, suffering our own separation from God.

He fulfilled the law for us, covering us with His everlasting righteousness.

He accomplished our salvation, so that we can have peace and joy and heaven and glory forever.

He sweat blood while He was in His agony, wrestling with thoughts of the death He was about to suffer for our sins, so that He could heal our souls (Luke 22:44).

He cried out when He willingly submitted to the lashes of justice, agreeing to bear them for our sins.

He was betrayed, arrested, condemned, spit on, whipped, knocked around, made fun of, crowned with thorns, crucified, and pierced with nails and a spear, all to save the soul from sin’s betrayal; to save it from being arrested by justice and condemned by the law; to save it from being spit on and whipped with guilt; to save it from being continually knocked around by its own conscience; to save it from being made fun of; to save it from being crowned with shame forever; to save it from dying the second death; to save it from pain and sorrow for eternity.

Do you understand me? He wrestled with justice, so that you could rest; He cried and mourned, so that you could laugh and rejoice; He was betrayed, so that you could go free; He was arrested, so that you might escape; He was condemned, that you might be declared innocent, and He was killed, so

that you could live. He wore a crown of thorns, so that you could wear a crown of glory; and He was nailed to the cross with His arms wide open, to show how freely He gives everything He has to the soul that comes near, welcoming it into His heart.

All this He did simply because He loves us. He comes to you in the gospel story with the blood running down from His head onto His face, tears on His cheeks, the holes fresh in His hands and His feet, the blood still bubbling from His side, and He begs you accept His sacrifice so that through it you can be restored to harmony with God.

We also see Christ’s love for us in the fact that He has gone ahead of us into heaven to take possession of it for us, getting our summerhouses ready for us, our mansions and cozy homes, as if we were the rich employer and He the servant. Oh, this love!

What will become of them that trample underfoot this Son of God?

All the nations of the world long for Christ. He is the joy of angels, the delight of the Father. The soul that possesses Him for all eternity is filled with infinite comfort.

There is just no telling how many thoughts Christ had of us before the world began—but if we could even begin to guess, our hearts would be pleased beyond words. We can’t imagine how delighted He was as He thought about all we would become, anticipating us being with Him after we leave this life. We will never know how much He loves us.

Christ was never so joyful in all His life, according to the scripture, as when His sufferings grew nearer. That is when He took the sacrament of His body and blood into His own hands, and with thanksgiving He gave it to His disciples. He sang a hymn then, rejoicing, and last of all He said, “Look, I am coming.” What compassion Jesus had for us, longing to do good to us! He did it with all the desire of His soul.

When someone not only gives me a fortune, but risks death to make sure I get it, this certainly is grace. But unfortunately, all these comparisons fall short of the incomprehensible love of Christ!

Christ Jesus has bags of mercy that have never even been opened. That is why the Bible says He has goodness laid up, things stored in heaven for His people. Who knows what will happen if He opens just one more of these bags.

If I think about all that Christ did for me, how precious He becomes! He saved me at the cost of His life and blood, with tears, groans, pain, and separation from God. He bore the curse of this terrible separation, dying thousands of deaths at once.

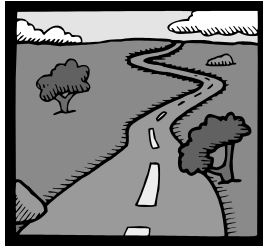
He did this while I was His enemy, without me asking Him, without even my knowledge, with no reason on my part why I deserved Him to do this. I was unaware of what He was doing.

He did all this freely, cheerfully; He longed to do it, in fact, for heaven was too small to contain the love He had for me. The only thing He cared about was my salvation, and He ac-

The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35; John 20:19-31

The Passover feast had ended, and some of the visitors at Jerusalem were returning to their homes. Along the roadway leading from the city of Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus, seven miles distant, two men were walking slowly, with bowed heads. They were friends of Jesus, and they were troubled about the news that had come to the city just before they started on their journey.



As these men talked together about the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, and about the women's message that early morning, suddenly a stranger joined them and asked, "Why is it that you are so sad? What are you talking about so earnestly?"

The men replied, "Can it be possible that you have not heard about the sad things that have been happening during these few days past?"

And the stranger asked, "What things?"

The men began to tell this stranger about Jesus of Nazareth whom they had hoped would deliver their nation from rule of the Romans and set up a kingdom. They told him how the chief priests and rulers had become jealous of him because he was such a mighty prophet, and how they captured him and caused him to be crucified. They told him that Jesus died on the cross and that his body had been buried by loving friends in a nice, new tomb.

"This is the third day since these things happened," they said, "and this morning some women of our company astonished us by saying they had gone early to the tomb and had seen that his body had been taken away. But they said angels were there, and the angels said he had risen from the dead. Some of our own number hurried to the grave and found that it was empty, but they did not see the angels nor did they see our risen Lord."

The stranger listened patiently, and when they had finished he began to talk to them about the teachings of Moses' law and of the prophets concerning the promised Redeemer of Israel. He showed them by the words of God's book that Jesus, the prophet of Galilee, should suffer these very things and rise again the third day if he would really be the Redeemer for whom they were longing. And the men listened silently, wondering who this stranger could be.

When they came near to the village of Emmaus, the two men asked the stranger to stay with them until the next morning, as the day had nearly ended. So he stopped with them. When they sat down to eat their evening meal he took bread, blessed it, and gave it to them, and they knew at once that he was Jesus, their risen Lord. But he disappeared from their sight.

Now the two men understood why the women who had seen the angels seemed so full of joy. They, too, believed in the risen Lord, and their hearts were filled with gladness. They rose up from the table and hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples that they had seen the Lord.

Questions and Answers

1. About what were the two friends of Jesus talking when they walked toward Emmaus? (*The trial & crucifixion of Jesus & the report of his resurrection.*)
2. How did these two men recognize Jesus? (*When they ate supper, Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to them.*)
3. Why did they hasten back to Jerusalem? (*They now believed that Jesus was alive and they wanted to tell others.*)

The Love of Christ (continued)

By: John Bunyan (From the compilation — The Riches of Bunyan)

(Continued from page 2)

complished this at Jerusalem.

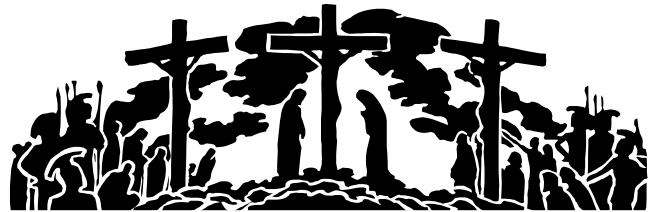
After all this, how can I help but love Him in return. "Christ love controls us" (2 Corinthians 5:14). Nothing will so sharpen the Christian's spirit as these words: "You were killed, and your blood has ransomed people for God" (Revelation 5:9). This makes the heavens themselves ring with joy and shouting.

Oh, Christ, beloved and loving, I owe You my whole self. You have bought me—but You paid for me ten thousand times more than I am worth!

Consider these two things; let them influence your soul:

First, when Christ brought His message to earth, He came with tears in His eyes, crying as He offered us the terms of reconciliation. He brought us a message of peace, but He saw how hard were human hearts, and He cried over the city, mourning for the people He loved who had rejected His mercy and the good news of peace. How can you turn away from a crying Jesus, from Someone who loves you so much that the thought of losing you makes Him cry?

Second, and what is more, He submitted to the trauma of human cruelty, still loving us through it all. With blood on His face, still He loves you, saying, "See, this is My mercy for you. See My bloody sweat, My bloody wounds, My horrible death. Look and see what danger I have gone through to come to you. I am really here now, though, and I am bringing you good news—but it cost Me My heart's blood before I could get to you, to give you the fruits of My everlasting love.



Scriptures about the Love of God

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ~ 1 John 3:1

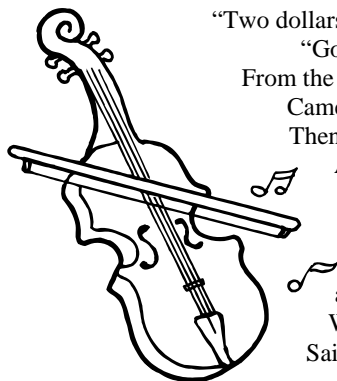
But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ~ Romans 5:8

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life. ~ John 3:16

The Touch of The Master's Hand

Taken from the April 1940 edition of The Midwest Messenger

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile.
"What am I bidden, good folks?" he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?
"A dollar—a dollar—then two, only two—
"Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"
"Going for three" - but no -
From the room far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow.
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loosened strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.



The music ceased, and the
auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "NOW what am I bid for the old
violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars—and who'll make it two?
"Two thousand—and who'll make it three?
"Three thousand once—three thousand twice—
"And going—and gone" cried him.
The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not understand.
"What changed its worth?" - Quick came the reply,
"The touch of the Master's hand."
And many a man with a life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap, to a thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of pottage" - a glass of wine,
A game—and he travels on;
He is going once—and going twice—
He's going—and almost gone!
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul, and the changes that's wrought
BY THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND.

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday) 4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday) 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.

We Can Be What the Bible Says

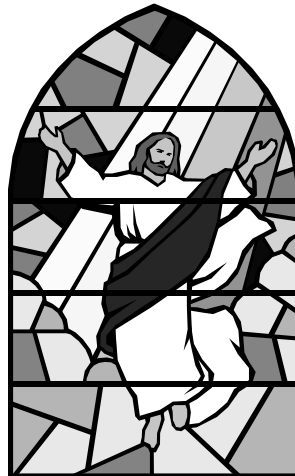
By: C. W. Naylor

In the Bible a standard of life we may find,
In a way that is noble and true;
It is not made too high, and 'tis never too hard—
What the Lord doth require we can do.
We can be what the Bible commands us to be,
We can live as it bids us to live;
There is pow'r in his grace, there is help in his might,
And the strength that we need he will give.
When the heart from its stains has been cleansed by the
blood,
When the yoke of our Savior we wear,
We can serve him with joy, for he's with us we know,
All our labors and troubles to share.
Grace abundant and free makes his service delight,
With the glory from heav'n shining down;
For the crucified life is enriched more and more,
And the cross meekly borne winds a crown.
We can be what the Lord commands,
We can do what he says to do;
If we love to obey we shall not go astray;
We can ever be faithful and true.

The Joy of My Life is Jesus

By: Lawrence Brooks

The joy of my life is Jesus, He saved my soul from guilt;
Upon the cross of Calv'ry For me his blood was spilt:
The joy of sins forgiven, How sweet to know I'm free!
I ne'er can cease to praise him, He is my victory.
The joy of my life is Jesus, I've given him control;
I'm trusting to his keeping My body, mind, and soul.
He filled me with his Spirit, When self was crucified;
All glory be to Jesus, I'm wholly sanctified.
The joy of my life is Jesus, His grace the storm withstood;
And every ill foreboding He worketh for my good.
My joy is e'er increasing, As I ascend the way
That leadeth to the dawning Of that eternal day.



The joy of my life is Jesus,
By faith I'll journey on;
I'll give my all in service
Till life's short race is run.
I know he'll soon transport
me To mansions over there;
The rapture, O how glorious!
My joy beyond compare.

The joy of my life is Jesus,
Thro' him I'm victorious;
He scattered my night, He
made my heart right,
The joy of my life is Jesus.