

## Prices We Pay

You possess nothing that is worthwhile which did not cost you a price. "You get just what you pay for" is a familiar adage and often true. A \$1500 dollar Cadillac would arouse suspicion because we recognize the principle that worth determines the price. Thus the good things do not come free. We should not expect something for nothing. (Illus. Patrick Henry, Bartlett's p. 369a)

I. The price of pardon. We are often told that redemption is free. It is true in a sense. Yet what has been the price of redemption. (The price Jesus paid in sorrow, abuse, poverty, death).

1. (I Cor. 6:20, Ac. 20:28)
2. The price of salvation is total self-denial (Mt. 16:24, Lk. 14:33)
  - a. Gods will above our will. (Mt. 6:10, Jn. 7:17)
  - b. The example (Jn. 5:30, Mt. 26:39)
  - c. The ultimatum. (He. 5:8-9)
3. Salvation is a shining goal. Futile to begin with no intent or moral willingness to finish. It has a cost. (Lk. 14:28-30). This tower is the life lived in accord with his will.
4. Building blocks.
  - a. Believe (Jn. 8:24). Give yourself an opportunity to believe. (Ro. 10:17)
  - b. Repent (Lk. 13:3, Ac. 17:30)
  - c. Confess Christ, it is His will. (Mt. 10:32-33, Ro. 14:11) Not a secret confession. (I Tim. 6:12)
  - d. Be baptized (I Pe. 3:20-21, Ro. 6:3-4)
  - e. Dedicate the purchased body to Him.
5. This is the greatest bargain ever offered to the sons of Adam and the greatest tragedy in eternity will be the mournful wail of the poor benighted souls who wouldn't buy.

II. The price of greatness. Who does not desire landation, applause, praise, approval? Yet greatness has it's price.

1. There are no short cuts. Many who strove for the exalted pennacle reached infamy rather than greatness. (Adolph Hitler, Khrushchev, Mao Tse, George Marshall)
2. We often see miniature counterfeits of just such monsters in our own acquaintences; those who march to recognition over the bodies of their victims. The slanderer.
3. True greatness comes not by force, strength or ruthlessness. Not "Me first and everybody else second" but the contrary. (cf. Moses, Paul, Jesus)
4. The keystones of gianthood:
  - a. Service to humanity. (Mt. 20:27-28) (cf. Jn. 13)







145.  
b. Humility. (Ja. 4:10, Pr. 16:18, Mt. 18:4)

"Let each esteem other better than himself."

5. Two short steps to greatness in God's kingdom and in the eyes of discerning men: Service, humility.

III. The price of friendship. The saddest and loneliest, and perhaps the most wretched inhabitants of earth are those poor souls who have no true friends. The Bible gives the formula on "how to win friends and influence people," but there is a price.

1. Unselfishness. (Phil. 2:4) The noxious rags of hypocritical pretention, always aggrandizing self, seeking selfish advantage, praise, etc. is not the route to friendship.

2. Friendliness. (Pr. 18:24) There are thousands who thirst for friendship but are waiting, waiting for you to make the first move.

3. Treat as you would be treated. (Mt. 7:12)

4. Andronicus and the lion. The Boer and Englishman (Prayer Meet. talks # 150) Kindness and Sympathy.

5. Jesus teaches us friendship.

IV. The price of security.

1. Financial: (a) Work. (Ep. 4:28) (b) Thrift (Pr. 30:25)

2. Spiritual: (a) Work. (Ph. 2:12, II Pe. 1:10). (b) Thrift (Lk. 12:33, I Tim. 6:17-19)

V. The price of knowledge. Midnight oil.

1. Study. Do not sit in Buddhist fashion waiting for emanations. (II Pe. 1:5, II Tim. 2:15, Ep. 5:17, 3:3-4, I Tim. 4:13)

2. S. Campbell addressed the U.S. Congress. Congratulated on an eloquent address, one remarked that he surely must have spent a long time in preparation for it. A.C. answered yes I did - 16 hours a day for 40 years.

3. Today we want the knowledge and its attendant honors but are not willing to "shell out."

VI. The price of spiritual strength. The requirement is similar to that for physical strength.

1. Food. (I Pe. 2:2)

2. Freedom from disease. (I Cor. 11:30)

3. Exercise. (I Tim. 4:7, He. 5:14)

4. The athlete trains approx. 4 hours per day. The virtuoso, likewise, that the practical dexterity may not flee his fingers.

VII. There are other prices we sometimes pay for the deceptive baubles of dime-store quality rather than the real tiara's of Jehovah's jewelry shop.

1. For wanton pleasure (I Tim. 5:6) The wild oats. The grave ~~day~~ with a knife and fork.

2. "Do not buy at too dear a price."

a. Mothers have deserted their homes at wholesale in this country to gain the price of fancy clothes, a car, ostentatious fur-







niture. But her car costs \$3,000 and the soul of her child.

b. Every child is entitled to a mother. So many have only a "big sister" or "woman."

VIII. Finally we should consider the price of heaven.

1. Live Christ. (Ph. 1:21)

2. Abide in Christ. (Jn. 15:6, cf. Ro. 6:4a)

3. Die in Christ. (Re. 14:13)

4. Cannot have your cake and eat it too. We can have heaven but it costs the world, or we can have the world at the price of heaven.

"I do not purchase regret at such a price."

a. "There are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants and the other is getting it."

b. He who gives all for the world will in the end lose both the purchase and the price. (Mt. 16:26)

*cut* c. The scene in the tomb of Charlemagne. Bony finger on (Mt. 16:24)

5. For the priceless treasure of eternal bless, God, and His dying Son ask and will consider but one price - love, full, unquestioning, obedient; faiths perfected crown.

a. "The love that asks no questions: the love that stands the test,

That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best:

The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,

The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice."

b. Song "At the Cross."

c. He walked the vale of sorrows and tears with but one motive to secure your hope of glory. He asks one thing in return - "love me."

Basic outline from Brownlow. "Ser. You Can Pr."







## How Often Do I Have To Go To Church To Be Saved?

Question manifests deep spiritual poverty.

1. View as a Privilege - Commune, Pray, Meet.
2. Wants to "get by" with least possible amount of work or obedience.
3. No warmth of spirit. (Re. 3:14-16)
4. The one acceptable motive in service. (Gal 5:6, I Co. 13)
5. Do you desire to be with Jesus? (Mt. 18:20)  
Be here now and there then?
6. Constrained - or "forced" from within.  
(II Cor. 5:14, I Jn. 4:18, 19)
7. Love and the Commandments. (Jn. 14:15)
8. The Command: (He. 10:24-31). It is not restricted to 10:30 A.M. Sun. "Not forsaking the assembling" - do not add words. (Re. 22:18)
9. Illustrations of service performed because "I have to."
10. Essence of Christian spirit (Re. 12:1, II Cor. 8:12, I Co. 6:19-20, Re. 6:16-18)  
When the heavens depart as a scroll we will not
11. "First Love" (Re. 2:4) } thinks in such terms as this.
  - a. Song. 192
  - b. Wandering on the wild mountain side  
the "Wounded feet of Jesus so weary seeking me."



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3. The most important of the group (p. 514-15)

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