

Priceless...

Do you remember the credit card commercials where a running total of cost is given, and then at the end it would mention the reason for the expenditures? The final phrase in the commercial was "priceless" which pointed out the cost could not compare to the satisfaction one got through those purchases. While I am not a fan of credit cards, the commercial was pretty powerful. Many things worthwhile have real cost associated with them but the benefits cannot be measured with dollars and cents. Let us look at somethings we realize are truly "priceless."

A loving family has a real cost associated with it. Largely the cost of time, effort, and priorities. The husband and wife are to forsake all others and be joined to each other. This takes real genuine commitment. A determination to not give up but to work together. Rearing children in the ways of the Lord also takes time and commitment. Reading Deuteronomy 6.7-9 speaks of talking, teaching one's children in the morning, in the evening, as they leave the house and when they comeback. Folks that is a lot of time and effort. It requires us to place others before ourselves. But the results are priceless. "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies." (Proverbs 31:10) A husband who loves his wife as Christ loved the church, can be trusted, and will make sacrifices for her. Children who grow up respecting and honoring God will also respect and honor their parents. All of these things in the home is priceless.

The avenue of prayer is priceless. We have the ability to petition our God on our behalf or for others. In prayer we approach Him as one would approach a loving Father and disclose what is on our hearts and mind. "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name." (Matthew 6:9) Anyone who has spent the night of a love

one who is gravely ill, or who is facing death themselves, knows the value of prayer.

Forgiveness has a real cost associated with it. It may require us to physically right a wrong or to go the extra mile in settling a dispute. Matthew 5:23-26 speaks of reconciling with a brother who has a complaint. "Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison." (Matthew 5:25). The cost of reconciliation may be admitting one's mistake or at least spending time working out some real or imagined problem. But the results are priceless. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalms 133:1)

Forgiveness from God is even more priceless. The cost to us is believing (John 8:24), repenting (Luke 13:3), confessing Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 10:32) and being baptized for the remission of our sins (Mark 16:16). To the Christian who sins against God, the cost is repentance and confession of their sin to God. Simon the sorcerer was told to repent of wanting to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit with money, Acts 8:22). John tells us to confess our sins. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

The one reason forgiveness is so priceless is because our soul is priceless. Our soul is the part of us that is truly eternal and our own. Nothing we have in this world is eternal except our soul. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." (1 Timothy 6:7-8) But our soul does not grow old, or decay, or vanish at death. Therefore, its value is more than all that is in this world. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own

soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

The cost of our salvation is also priceless. How much is the life of one man worth? According to the above paragraph, the soul of that man or woman is priceless. Think about the blood of the Son of God. How could we ever come to a greater cost for our salvation than His blood? "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Peter 1:18-19) But the blood of Christ cost me nothing. He paid the cost on our behalf. He did what we could not do for ourselves.

Finally, eternity in heaven is priceless. "And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life." (1 John 2:25) The cost, the blood of Christ, and sacrifices we make in this life will surely be worth it all. --
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