The Incredible Value of
A HUMAN SOUL

(Selected Scriptures)
12/15/2013

The <u>SOUL</u>

Hebrew - נפשׁ ("nephesh")

Greek - ψυχη ("psuche")

Jeremiah (Jer.9:31), Jesus Christ (Mt.9:36), & the Apostle Paul (Acts 20:31) had a deep burden for souls!

I. Every person has been...
Made in the image & likeness of God (Gen.1:27, 9:6)

II. Every person has a soul-spirit which is of...
More value than all the wealth of the world (Mt.16:26, Mk.8:36,37)

III. Every Soul is immortal and will...
Live on for eternity

A. The souls of the saved are with the Lord
(Gen.35:18; II Cor.5:8; Acts 7:59; Rev. 6:9)

B. The souls of the lost are experiencing eternal anguish & suffering (Mt. 10:28; Rev. 14:11; 20:14,15)



IV. When you realize the value of the soul-spirit of people you will...

A. Respect the dignity of human life
James 3:9-10

B. Focus on allowing God to nurture the inner-spiritual nature
1 Thess.5:23

C. Not judge a person based on external appearance
1 Samual 16:7

D. Not lust after the flesh
Proverbs 6:25; Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Timothy 5:2

E. Not Feed Fleshly Appetites (but feed the Spirit/Soul)
1 Peter 2:11

***F. Make witnessing the Gospel a priority occupation**
James 5:20; Romans 10:1; Proverbs 11:30

The Value of One
See Luke 15:
In Luke 15, The Lord Jesus when criticized for welcoming and eating with sinners (v.1-2) shows the value of one soul with three illustrations:

- The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)
- The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)
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No matter who you are, you must follow the admonition of:
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There is a distinction between soul and spirit. God knows the fine distinctions and His Word can penetrate in between both.
Heb. 4:12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
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Mt.16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

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A. The souls of the saved are with the Lord (Gen.35:18; II Cor.5:8; Acts 7:59; Rev. 6:9)

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2 Cor.5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
Rev. 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

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Mt.10:28 - And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.



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1 Samual 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

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Proverbs 6:25 - Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

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1 Peter 2:11 - Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

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James 5:20 - Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

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Proverbs 11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

The Value of One

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The SOUL

Hebrew - נפשׁ ("nephesh")

Greek - ψυχη ("psuche")

The "soul" is the immaterial aspect of man that gives him life
(Gen. 2:7 - "...Man became a living soul" ["nephesh"]).

You are a soul/spirit. That is your essence.
There is a distinction between soul and spirit. God knows the fine distinctions and His Word can penetrate in between both.
Heb. 4:12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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Genesis1:26

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" - The plural pronouns must refer to God Himself (not including angels); because v. 27 describes man as being created in the image of God (not God and angels).

Since the Scripture asserts that God Himself created all things (Is. 45:12, 18), the “us” cannot refer to finite angelic beings, but to God’s own triune essence.

“Let us make man in our image” - The Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) was involved in creation.

Man was created in the image and likeness of God.

In what sense?

"Image" ("tselem") - points to man's personality features that are reproductions of God's spiritual, intellectual, and moral qualities.

"Likeness" ("demuth") - points to man as not being the same as God, but as being similar in pattern or model.

Why does God use both words, "image" and "likeness?"

To avoid the implication that man is a precise copy of God, albeit in miniature, the less specific and more abstract word "demuth" ("likeness") was added by God. "Demuth" then defines and limits the meaning of "tselem" (Humbert, Barr, T.W.O.T. Vol. 1, p. 192).

Man bears the image of God in three senses:

1) Man is like God in that he is a person (with personality). A "person" is a being who possesses self-consciousness, self-determination, intellect, emotion, will, world-consciousness, etc.

2) Man is like God in that he has a spirit (Jn. 4:24; I Cor. 6:20; cp. Eph. 4:23-24)

3) Man is like God in that he has a moral nature (a basic, innate comprehension of right and wrong - Rom. 2:14; Eccl. 7:29).

The crown of God’s creation – man – occurred on the sixth day.

Mankind was created last because he was the most special of God’s creation. Special because he would be made in God’s image and likeness and because he would rule over the rest of creation.

Psalm 8:4-9 - 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:
7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.
9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

"Dominion over" - rule over; control over; stewardship over; man was to govern the elements and species of the world.

This dominion expresses God's desire and design that people be regarded as superior to the rest of the animal world and it explains why people have a natural tendency toward fishing, hunting, taming animals, utilizing domesticated animals for man's benefit, etc.

II. Every person has a soul-spirit which is of...
More value than all the wealth of the world (Mt.16:26, Mk.8:36,37)
Mt.16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

In a chapel in southern France, the great emperor Charlemagne is buried in an unusual way...
He is seated on a marble chair and wrapped in his emperor's robes
In his lap is a copy of the NT, and his finger is pointing to a verse which reads:
"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?" - Mt 16:26

“The whole world” – According to CNBC in Oct. of 2013, Global wealth hit 241 Trillion Dollars. This means that the total accumulated wealth of the entire world is 241 Trillion dollars.

"Soul" - the immaterial part of man (used synonymously with "spirit" in this verse).

The soul is the inner real you. it is that aspect of you which will exist forever, even after death (Rev. 6:9).

What do you gain if you acquire the whole world (with all its temporary gold, luxury, pleasure, fame, etc.) and yet lose your soul forever!

"Give in exchange" - What would you trade for your soul? There is nothing as valuable, important, vital, or precious to you as your own soul!

Many have forfeited their "soul" for a cheap, temporary, brief, fleeting moment of happiness

--for the foolish farmer it was his self-sufficiency and material security (Lk. 12:20)
--for the rich man it was his sumptuous living (Lk. 16)
--for Judas it was a bag of 20 pieces of silver
--for those who receive the mark of the Beast, it will be to "buy and sell" (to keep their business open) (Rev. 13)

So many sell out so cheaply!

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"Made after the similitude of God" = this shows that we should have real appreciation for the worth (value) of every human being.

When you injure a man, you sin against the Creator.

As a dad, if you were to curse my son or daughter you would offend me more than if you were to curse me. It's the same way with God . . . If you knew that God loves others as much as He loves you, you wouldn't curse them.

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Realize that the essence of each human being does not consist in their skin color, size, shape, sex, or social status -- but in their soul/spirit.

Racism over skin color is foolish because a "soul" has no color and the soul/spirit is the essence of a man!

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The world "soul" here is used practically synonymously with the world "spirit."

When we don't have the discipline to abstain from the lusts of our old nature (and we give in and yield), we strike at and wound our spiritual life (this attacking does not rob of us our salvation; but it does rob us of victory in living the Christian life).

Whatever nature you feed the most will dominate in your life (ILLUS: the Indian and the 2 dogs).

These fleshly lusts are enemies to your growth, service, witness, joy, worship, etc.

When we give in to a fleshly lust, we feel most miserable because we have grieved the Holy Spirit and have opened the door for the accuser of the brethren tot stir up doubt and discouragement in our hearts.

"Our real battle is not with people around us, but with passions within us" (Wiersbe, p. 404).

D. L. Moody said: "I have more trouble with D.L Moody than with any man I know": (cited by Wiersbe, p. 404).

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***F.** **Make witnessing the Gospel a priority occupation**
(James 5:20; Rom.10:1; Proverbs 11:30)
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"Several miles above Milton, Pennsylvania, [United States], when the ice was breaking up, a farmer got into one of his boats, purposing to pull it out of the river. A floating mass of ice struck it, breaking it loose from the bank, and carrying it and him out into the current. A neighbor, seeing the danger, mounted a horse and with all speed rode down to Milton. The people of the town gathered all the ropes they could secure, went out on the bridge, and suspended a line of dangling ropes from the bridge across the river. They could not tell at just what point the boat with the farmer would pass under, so they put a rope down every two or three feet clear across. By and by the farmer was seen, wet and cold, standing in the boat half full of water, drifting down the rapid current. When he saw the ropes dangling within reach, he seized the nearest one, was drawn up and saved. Now, one rope might not have answered the purpose. The pastor hangs the rope of salvation from the pulpit, and sinners present do not seem to get near it; but if the business men will hang out ropes, and you young men and women, mothers and wives, hang out ropes, sinners will certainly be saved." by William Evans

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Philip was detoured from reaching many in a great revival in Samaria, to one. He went from winning multitudes (Acts 8:25), to winning one man, the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40); from a great revival to a singular witnessing experience. This story shows the Lord's estimation of the value of one soul.

The greatest evidence of the value of souls is Christ willingness to die for them!

Jesus said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me" (Acts 1:8).

WHY SHOULD I WITNESS?

A. Because of four calls to evangelism

1. There is a call from within (Jn. 4:27-30)

2. There is a call from without (Acts 16:6-10)

3. There is a call from above (Mk. 16:15; Ezek. 3:17-18, 33:1-11; Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

4. There is a call from below (Lk. 16:19-31)

"There is no command in all the New Testament for a sinner to go to church after the gospel, but there are multiplied commands for the church to take the gospel to the sinner. . . the responsibility of every Christian is not to bring the lost to the gospel but to take the gospel to the lost. Expecting the unsaved to come to church is unscriptural and unrealistic." (J.E. Conant)

How awful it is that the Great Commission has become the "great omission"!

B. Because we are God's only plan

1. He is not using angels (Acts 10:1-8)

2. He is not using the dead (Lk. 16:19-31)

3. He is not using creation (Rom. 1:20)

C. Because all men are spiritually blind (II Cor. 4:4)

1. Blind as to their need

2. Blind as to their destiny

3. Blind as to the love of God

4. Blind as to the urgency of salvation

D. Because of the power available to us

1. The Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

2. The Word of God (Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16)

Conclusion:

No matter who you are, you must follow the admonition of:
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