

## Prices We Pay

- I. Introduction:
  - a. There is a price in everything that is worthwhile
  - b. Things that are good come at a price
  - c. We ought not think that we should receive something for free – without cost
    - i. Example:
      - 1. In computers we may see some software that says it's free but come to learn that it is full of spyware and adware so that the makers of the software can receive compensation by selling information about you to advertisement and marketing companies. You suffer and pay by compromising privacy and computer repair costs.
  - d. Everything has a cost
    - i. Example:
      - 1. For the gift of locomotion, we pay dearly for our fuel!
- II. The Price for Pardon
  - a. When God deals with man, God does his part and expects man to do his.
    - i. Example of Noah
      - 1. God gave His grace
        - a. **(Gen 6:7-8)** “And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”
      - 2. Noah obeyed God
        - a. **(Heb 11:7)** “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”
    - b. God paid a great price
      - i. His Son
        - 1. **(John 3:16-17)** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
      - ii. Jesus Paid with his Blood!
        - 1. **(Acts 20:28)** “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
    - c. Man must also pay a price – meager in size and kind to what God paid!

- i. Man must submit himself
  1. (**Matt 5:3**) “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
  2. (**Matt 7:21**) “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
  3. Man must pay the price of submission to God and God’s will.
- ii. What does God will?
  1. Faith in His Son
    - a. (**John 8:24**) “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if **ye believe not** that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
    - b. (**Rom 10:17**) “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
      - i. Give yourself an opportunity to believe! – Hear the gospel!
  2. Repent of your old ways
    - a. (**Luke 13:3**) “I tell you, Nay: but, except **ye repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.”
    - b. Repent – “μετανοεω” (met-an-o-eh'-o); to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction).”
      - i. “meta” – “after”
      - ii. “noew” – “exercise the mind” – Translated in KJV as “consider, perceived, think, understand”
    - c. Once you believe the word of God our mind must change and thus our actions to accommodate our faith.
  3. Confess Christ
    - a. (**Matt 10:32-33**) “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”
    - b. This confession must be public – not a secret confession
  4. Be baptized
    - a. (Mark 16:16) “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
    - b. (Rom 6:3-4) “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up

from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

d. The price of pardon = God paid a great price – His Son – We must pay the price of submission to His will

III. The price for greatness

a. Service

i. (**Matt 20:27-28**) “And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

1. Greatness comes not from office, position, or uniform, but from service!

b. Humility

i. (**Matt 18:4**) “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven.”

1. Characteristics of a Child

a. Humility

b. Easy for them to forgive

c. Simplicity

d. Teachable

2. (**Matt 18:3**) “Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

ii. (**Prov 16:18**) “Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

c. The price for greatness is in our being a humble servant!

i. Like Moses – Enduring afflictions with meekness

IV. The price for true and good friends

a. (**Prov 18:24**) “He that maketh many friends (doeth it) to his own destruction; But there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” (ASV)

i. Worldly friends gained by worldly means – wealth and power

1. ‘Friends’ only for what they can get – These ‘friends’ come at a cost.

2. Hidden cost is the cost of ruin or destruction

3. They will forsake you at the price of another!

ii. True friends come at a cost, also.

1. Can’t buy good friends.

2. Can’t shake the companionship of a good friend

b. The price of true good friends

i. Unselfishness

1. Paul gives a lesson on being unselfish.

2. (**Phil 2:1-8**) “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;

but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. **Look not every man on his own things**, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which **was also in Christ Jesus**: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be **equal with God**: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a **servant**, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

- a. Selfishness is the farthest of all sins from God
  - b. (John 3:16) Love = Unselfishness
  - ii. Treat others as you want to be treated
    - 1. (**Matt 7:12**) “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”
  - c. The price for true and good friends is being a true and good friend!
- V. The price for financial security
- a. Work
    - i. (**Eph 4:28**) “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”
    - ii. (**Prov 6:6-11**) “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.”
  - b. Be Economical
    - i. Prodigal Waste
      - 1. (**Luke 15:13-14**) “And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.”
    - ii. (**Prov 18:9**) “He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.”
  - c. The price for financial security = Hard work and common sense spending.
- VI. The price for knowledge
- a. At one time knowledge was given miraculously by the Comforter - inspiration
    - i. (**John 14:26**) “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

- b. Today we have the written words of inspiration
  - i. They did their part by writing down what the Comforter taught them
    - 1. **(2 Peter 1:13-15)** “Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.”
    - 2. **(Eph 3:4)** “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)”
  - ii. You must do your part! In order to have knowledge, we must study!
    - 1. **(2 Tim 2:15)** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- c. Proper Bible Study
  - i. **(Ps 1:2)** “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”
  - ii. NOT hurry up and get through!
  - iii. We must clear our minds from cares and worries and focus on our study
  - iv. We must study systematically
    - 1. Be consistent in your studies
    - 2. Set aside a regular time to study
    - 3. Come to a logical and biblical conclusion
      - a. Use scripture to prove scripture
        - i. Find all scriptures that pertain to the subject at hand – Draw Conclusions from these scriptures
        - ii. Conclusions from hard and obscured scriptures will never contradict easy and plain scripture
      - b. Keep scripture in Context
        - i. Ask Questions:
          - 1. Who is speaking?
          - 2. Is the speaker inspired or is an inspired writer reporting what an uninspired speaker said?
          - 3. Who is it addressed to?
          - 4. Why did the writer say this?
    - c. Know that there is a difference between the Old and New Testaments
      - i. **(Gal 3:24-25)** “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that

faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”

- ii. Laws that applied to those under the ‘schoolmaster’ do not apply to us today.
- iii. Noah was commanded to build an ark – We read it in the Bible, but we know that it doesn’t apply to us – The same is true with the Old Law

v. Expect to Understand the Scriptures

d. The price of knowledge is time and dedication to much study!

VII. The price for spiritual strength

a. Much the same as the price for physical strength

b. Food

- i. **(1 Peter 2:2)** “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

1. Points to studying and hearing the Word of God – Spiritual Food

c. Freedom from spiritual diseases (sins)

- i. **(Col 3:9-10)** “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”

d. Exercise

- i. **(1 Tim 4:7)** “But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.”

e. Time

- i. **(Heb 5:12-14)** “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

f. The price of spiritual strength is food, freedom from spiritual diseases, exercise, and time

VIII. The price for Heaven

a. Must abide in Christ

- i. **(John 15:5-6)** “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

ii. How can we abide in Christ?

- 1. **(John 15:10)** “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”

a. Service – Submission

- b. Abiding in Christ means giving up this world
  - i. (**1 John 2:15-17**) “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
- c. Must Die in Christ
  - i. (**Rev 14:13**) “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
- d. A person cannot have everything. He can have heaven, but at the expense of giving up the world. Or he can have the world, but at the price of giving up heaven.
- e. Which will you pay?
  - i. (**Mark 8:37**) “Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”