

How Much Is Jesus Worth To You?

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matthew 13:44).

Few things are as effective in opening up our billfolds or motivating us to pick up our car keys at a good old-fashioned sale. When we hear about those bargains and see great values, it is hard to pass up the opportunity.

When we come to understand the priceless value of Christianity – when we get a glimpse of the unfathomable riches of God's matchless grace – we must fully-invest in this opportunity of a lifetime.

God makes no high-pressured sales pitch. He includes no hidden charges in the fine print of the sales contract. He offers eternal life to all who will accept His Son in obedient faith. It is a gift of grace brought on by an act of love. There is nothing we could ever do to deserve it. There is nothing we could do to purchase it. We accept God's gift by faith and manifest our appreciation for it through a life of faithful devotion and unselfish service (Ephesians 2:8-9).

How valuable is your hope of heaven? Can it hold its own next to the pleasures Satan is promising you in the world? Do you love Jesus more than anything or anyone else in the world? Jesus asks, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). Just how much is Jesus worth to you?

— Glen Elliott (Greenbriar, AR), via Justin Church of Christ, Justin, TX —

What Sin Is Not Like

Cuts heal, broken bones mend, and illnesses are cured. However, sin is not like a cut because it does not heal over time. Sin is not like a broken bone because it does not mend stronger than it was before. Sin is not like an illness because it cannot be cured with medicine or a bowl of chicken noodle soup. Sin is a permanent problem that leads to a permanent death, and there is nothing we can do about it in and of ourselves. However, there is a solution to the lethal and eternal consequences of sin. That solution is Jesus Christ, and the power of His blood can make us whole once again.

— Kevin Patterson (via Facebook), Justin Church of Christ, Justin, TX —

*Love the beautiful.
Seek out the true.
Wish for the good.
And the best do.*

Heaven — our soul's country evermore. — Boethius

News Notes

TODAY'S SPEAKERS: Aidan Klinger, from the WV School of Preaching (a.m.); Jeremy Main (p.m.). Bro. Rico is in a meeting in New Concord, OH.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All ladies invited to participate.

FRIDAY NIGHT SING: This coming Friday, Sept. 19th, 7:00-8:00 p.m. at McKinleyville.

LADIES DAY: Saturday, Sept 27th, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Southern Hills Church of Christ. Topic: "Am I An Example?" Speakers: Bobbie Goodnight & Alycia Taylor.

PANTRY: Succotash..

SICK & SHUT-IN: *Calcutta Health Care:* David Stefl (Room 7). *At Home:* Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Michael Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). *Serra Manor, Weirton:* Jean Haught (Skip's mother). *Fox, Chester:* Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Bridgeport, WV.....	Sept. 21-24	Rick Tinch
McKinleyville	Sept. 21-25	Different Speakers
CHESTER	Oct. 5- 9	Jimmy Clark
Weirton Heights	Oct. 5-10	David Kenney

Punching Holes in The Darkness

Brett Petrillo

A young boy had his face pinned to the window and he watched with fascination as an old lamplighter came down the street. One by one, he was lighting the old-fashioned gas streetlamps. Excited, the young boy called out to his grandmother, "Nana! Nana! Come quickly. There is a man outside who is punching holes in the darkness!"

Similarly, the responsibility of Christians is to "punch holes into the darkness" of this world. The problem is, we can't do this by our own light. This can only be done by reflecting God's light. Without the righteousness and morality that God has brought into this life (John 1:1-5, 3:19-31), there is no other way to truly break up the darkness.

Jesus said it clearly, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

Christians have a great responsibility here. The world isn't getting any brighter. Let's punch holes in the darkness. (via Mt. Carmel Church of Christ, Athens, AL)