

Souls Are Precious

#0409

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 28, 1972

“Jesus climbed the lonely road up Calvary,
And He bore the heavy cross to set me free,
But He fainted ‘neath the load, how can it be,
That my Saviour would have done it just for me.

[Refrain] I can never understand His love for me,
For to Him I was a bitter enemy,
Oh, forever it will be a mystery,
That my Savior would have died for only me.

Then they nailed Him to the cross by men’s decree,
Yes, they crucified God’s Son so shamefully,
And they gave Him gall to drink, how can it be,
That my Savior would have suffered just for me.

[Refrain]

See the darkness that descends on Calvary,
See the lightning flash, the earth quake violently,
Hear His dying, bitter cry of agony,
And to think He would have died for only me.

[Refrain]”

“For Me” by Warren C. Wilson

Our text will be the 49th Psalm the 8th verse.

“At the foot of the cross, remembering that for one sinner
Christ would have laid down His life, you may estimate the
value of a soul” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 196.

Our text:

“For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it
ceaseth for ever” Psalm 49:8.

The most precious thing in this universe to God is a human soul. And He demonstrated that when He sent His Son on this most expensive errand to redeem man.

“For the redemption of their soul is precious...” Psalm 49:8.

“Precious” means dear and valuable. And when the Lord Jesus Christ tells us that He would have come for just one, that means one soul is *worth* that much to heaven.

I copied down a few statements which I would like to read on what souls are worth. *Volume 6*, page 21:

“One soul is of more value to heaven than a whole world of property, houses, lands, money” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 21.

Volume 6, page 22:

For the conversion of one soul we should tax our resources to the utmost” *Ibid.*, page 22.

Here’s another way of putting that same thought. This is in the *Review and Herald* of November 8, 1934, a quotation from the Spirit of Prophecy.

“If the sacrifice were essential for the salvation for one soul, it would be the duty of the inhabitants of the earth to sell their possessions in order to secure that soul for eternity” *Review and Herald*, November 8, 1934.

“For the conversion of one soul we should tax our resources to the utmost” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 22.

Another statement:

“The loss of even one soul is a calamity, infinitely outweighing the gains and treasures of a world...” *Great Controversy*, page 21.

Volume 4, 132:

“If you fail ninety-nine times in a hundred, but succeed in saving the one soul from ruin, you have done a noble deed for the Master’s cause” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4*, page 132.

In other words, what we’re dealing with, friend, what we’re dealing with is worth making an effort, and another effort, and another one, and keeping on, keeping on until we get how many? One soul. Of course, then we’ll want to get another, won’t we? Anything that valuable, if we can get one, we want to get another.

But the thing that makes souls (plural) valuable is the value of *one* soul. It isn’t that if we can get a hundred, that’s wonderful, we can all rejoice. But if we get two or three, well, of course, small pickings. No.

Gospel Workers, 184:

“One soul is of infinite value; Calvary speaks its worth”
Gospel Workers, page 184.

Desire of Ages, 480:

“The soul that has given himself to Christ is more precious in His sight than the whole world. The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom” *Desire of Ages*, page 480.

Volume 8, page 73:

“...One soul is precious, very precious, in the sight of God. Christ would have died for one soul in order that that one might live through the eternal ages” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8*, page 73.

Now, if what we're reading from the Bible and from the Spirit of Prophecy is true, then dear friends, this is how much *you're* worth. It's how much the man, the woman, the boy, or the girl that you're working for to win to Christ is worth. It's how much the soul is worth that you neglect to work for, the one that goes over the Niagara of eternal loss and failure and death, goes over because somebody didn't reach out the helping hand to save *that* soul.

“The loss of even one soul is a calamity, infinitely outweighing the gains and treasures of a world...” *Great Controversy*, page 21.

Brother Finley, I wonder if you'd help me here a minute.

Now, I have a magnet here. And you notice what happens when the right kind of metal is brought close to it. It holds it there in spite of gravity. Now, I'm going to have Brother Finley hold that for me like that, and I want you to see something take it away.

What happened? What? A stronger magnet. That's all it took. Let's do it again. This is no magic. This is just a magnet. That's all. It'll do it every time. The magnet holds, but the stronger magnet pulls it away.

Thank you very much.

You know, dear friends, there are many things that are attracting people today. There are many things that are calling for the time, the energies, the money, the thoughts, the love, the devotion of men and women, and you. But there's one thing that will pull you and me away from every one of those attractions. It's to sense the value of one soul. And once we *feel* that, once we understand the value of what we're working for, everything else we do will be merely a means to that end.

Will we eat? Yes. But we'll eat to get some strength to win souls. Will we sleep? Yes. What for? To recharge the battery so we can go and win some more souls. Will we study? Yes, but not to make little gods of ourselves, or just because we enjoy studying, or just so we can get some recognition. We'll study for one thing—to get the information that will help us to be better soul winners.

Will we work to make money? Yes, if that's what God calls us to do. But what for? So that we can support ourselves in soul-winning and support other people in soul-winning. That's all that money's for, friends. That's all.

Think of it. Every hour of the day and week, every energy of the soul, all focused on soul-winning. And this doesn't mean we're to make martyrs of ourselves by unreasonable and senseless overwork. It does mean that we will cut out of our program literally hundreds of things that most people think are okay. Why? In order that pruning the fruit tree may give us more fruit and better fruit, in order that our lives may be focused on the one thing of infinite value.

What does our text say regarding men and women?

“For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it...”
Psalm 49:8.

What?

“...it ceaseth for ever” Psalm 49:8.

When the soul is gone, it's gone. There's no second chance in the grave or beyond the grave. In that great resurrection, when the millions of the lost come up and stand before God, between the righteous and the wicked, there is already a great gulf fixed, and nobody passes over that gulf.

Jesus went down into that dark pit in the hours of Gethsemane and Calvary. And there, my dear friends, having suffered the pains of death and hell, He offers Himself as the bridge over which men can pass from being lost to being saved. But that opportunity is in this life.

“...Behold, *now* is the accepted time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation” 2 Corinthians 6:2.

Oh friends, if men only knew what they were worth to God, they'd come running to cross over that bridge and stand with God instead of with Satan. And if you and I know what we're worth and what others are worth, we will come running to join with God to spend our lives in soul-winning.

I repeat, we'll take time to eat to give us strength, we'll take time to sleep to recharge the batteries, we'll take time for recreation that we may be refreshed, but there'll not be one moment for the world's fun and folly and frolic, my friends.

“The loss of even one soul is a calamity, infinitely outweighing the gains and treasures of a world...” *Great Controversy*, page 21.

Yesterday morning when I awakened, the Lord brought to my mind a dream that I had read about a number of years ago. And so, I went over before breakfast to where I had my files, and I looked it up. And I want to read it to you. This is something that the Lord gave to His servant, Ellen White, and oh, what a wonderful lesson it brings. Listen:

“Some years ago I had a dream. I dreamed we were out upon the water. There were several in the boat besides myself, and there were other boats about us. The other boats were watching to see what course our boat would take. We had, every one of us, oars, and were rowing with all our might. While we were thus urging our boat along, I saw two or three of the other boats capsize, and the persons thrown from them began to sink. They had no power to save themselves or to get hold of the boat again.

“I said, ‘Let us put about the boat and pick up these souls.’ The answer was, ‘Let them come to the boat; they can see the boat; let them come to us.’ I looked and saw them sinking and rising and struggling for life. I said, ‘We must put the boat about and pick them up.’ The answer again was, ‘Let them come to the boat, and then we will pull them in.’ After waiting a few minutes more, I said, ‘Give me the oars,’ and I began to row with all my might. Said I: ‘Help me; we must go to those individuals and save them where they are.’

“With that, the others took hold of the oars again and rowed with me to get to these individuals. ‘Now,’ said I, ‘take hold of me.’ Then I would reach down, even to the bottom, it seemed to me, exerting all my strength, and would pull one out of the water. Others followed the example. This we did repeatedly, taking them to the shore and leaving them there for others to work over, as some of them were nearly lifeless. Said I: ‘Work over them; every one will live.’ Then we would cry out to those in the boats, ‘reach down your arms to them, and bring them up.’

“I then went to examine those who had been brought to the shore, and as I turned them over to look at their faces I recognized the face of my brother, my sister, and my near friends. I kneeled down, and such thanksgiving as I raised to heaven that God had given us strength to save them, I cannot express.

“I do not know whether this means that these were my natural brothers and sisters; I think it means those connected to us by still closer ties in the church. Said Jesus, ‘Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is My brother, and My sister, and mother.’

“I want to say, brethren and sisters, that we must labor for the wandering where they are. You need not expect those who have the chilling influence of the world upon them to manifest anxiety for their own souls. We must manifest it for them.

“Do you appreciate salvation? Do you appreciate the great sacrifice that has been made for you? If you do, God help you to deny yourselves, and make this sacrifice for your fellow men” *Manuscript Releases*, Volume 18, page 283.

Oh friends, I want to be in the soul-saving business. What do you say? The soul-winning business.

Volume 6, page 80:

“We should hold convocations for prayer, asking the Lord to open the way for the truth to enter the strongholds where Satan has set up his throne... We have the assurance: ‘the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.’

“Solicit prayer for the souls for whom you labor...”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, page 80.

I’m soliciting prayer tonight for souls that are in the balance. In these meetings in St. Elmo, in these meetings in Trenton, in other ways that God has given us contact with souls, I’m soliciting prayer on behalf of these dear people that are in the valley of decision.

There are souls here tonight that are in the valley of decision. And you, dear ones, who need to know a Savior’s love, I’m soliciting the prayers in *your* behalf of those who know God and His Son Jesus Christ tonight. I don’t want to just talk about pulling people out of the water. I want to see some get out tonight, friend, tonight. Oh, that the spirit of prayer may come in now and grip the heart of every soul that knows Jesus. And any of you dear ones that don’t know Him, remember dozens and scores of people are praying in your behalf here tonight. And how much are you worth? What did my text read?

“...The redemption of their soul is precious...” Psalm 49:8.

How precious? Ah, the blood of Jesus was poured out that *you* might be redeemed.

“Solicit prayer for the souls for whom you labor; present them before the church as subjects for their supplication. It will be just what the members of the church need, to have their minds called from their petty difficulties, to feel a great burden, a personal interest, for a soul that is ready to perish”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, page 80.

What does “petty” mean here? Little, small. Petty what? What is it our minds are to be called from? Petty what? Oh, let me read it again.

“Solicit prayer for the souls for whom you labor; present them before the church as subjects for their supplication. It will be just what the members of the church need, to have their minds called from their petty difficulties, to feel a great burden, a personal interest, for a soul that is ready to perish”
Ibid.

What is it that’s petty? Difficulties, difficulties. Ah, friend, I want to tell you something. We may be having difficulties that hold our attention as this magnet holds this piece of metal, but all we need to pull that piece of metal away (we’ve already seen it) is what? A stronger magnet.

And the thing that’ll draw your mind away from any difficulty that’s burdening your soul tonight is to feel the burden of a lost soul. That’s right. Everything else looks petty alongside of that.

Let me illustrate what I mean. Jesus was hanging upon the cross in blood and agony. And there by His side was a poor man that was also nailed to a cross. And under the discipline of suffering, that man’s heart finally became tender, and he cried out to Jesus:

“Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom” Luke 23:42.

Did Jesus hear him? Did He? Did His heart go out in love to that poor thief? Well, wasn’t he already just in anguish Himself? Yes, but listen, friend. Amid all that mob and that Babel and all those voices of reproach, and amid the agony that He was suffering, His ear quickly caught that cry for help from that soul. It was something that interested Him more than anything else in the universe at that moment. It was saving that man. And Christ Himself, going down into the depths of death, reaches out and grasps another soul before the curtain falls.

Oh, friend, let’s ask God to give us that kind of love for souls. What do you say?

“Solicit prayer for the souls for whom you labor; present them before the church as subjects for their supplication. It will be just what the members of the church need, to have their minds called from their petty difficulties, to feel a great burden, a personal interest, for a soul that is ready to perish.

“Select another and still another soul, daily seeking guidance from God, laying everything before Him in earnest prayer, and working in divine wisdom. As you do this, God will give you the Holy Spirit to convict and convert the soul” *Ibid.*, pages 80–81.

Isn't that a wonderful promise, friend? Now, you know, as we pray for souls, God will lay upon our hearts the burden of praying *with* souls. Look at young Ellen Harmon, just 15 years old there in Portland, Maine, back in the early 1840s in the great advent movement. She's not a very strong girl. But God has given her a burden for souls, and she prays for souls, and she prays with them, 15 years old. She prays *for* her young friends. She prays *with* them.

Read about it there in the early pages of *Volume 1*. And she tells us that in one series of experiences that she had there, she kept praying name by name for and with a group of souls till every one surrendered to Christ.

Nobody had ever given her a training in a class in soul-winning. She'd never been through some institute. She had found Jesus Christ, Jesus had found her, and in simplicity, she got down and prayed for souls and then prayed with them and pled with them to give their hearts to Christ.

Oh, I pray God that our education will not keep us from the simplicity of pleading with souls, friends. What do you say?

In the *Review and Herald* of March 19, 1889, is this significant paragraph:

“Oh, if you would go to the lost and let your heart break before them we should see a work similar to that which was done in 1844. Then you might have seen three or four in the orchard, two or three in a barn, five or six in a chamber pleading with God for souls. When they came to a meeting their faces were lighted up with the glory of God” *Review and Herald*, March 19, 1889.

Let's do it, friends. Some are doing it. Some are entering in to this experience of intercession. There's a place for you. There's a need for you.

There may be some dear heart here tonight that says, “Well, I need help myself. I need saving, myself.”

May I suggest, friends, listen. If you're lost out there in the water and drowning, there's somebody here to help you get aboard. But get aboard and help us start rowing to get some other soul. Do you see what I mean, friends?

Oh, that God may help every *lost* soul to realize that you can be a *saved* soul and then work to help somebody else. And as fast as you get hold of some help, start helping somebody else. If you don't, you'll lose it.

There's somebody here tonight that is not as close to the Master as you were a week ago, or a month ago, or a year ago because you've done little to pass on what you've received. Won't you start using what God has given you? Won't you start sharing what heaven has shared with you? Don't wait till you get perfect. Oh, no.

Do you remember that man that Jesus saved, that demoniac? The Devil had full possession of him, but Christ delivered him. And right away, he wanted to be close to Jesus.

Perhaps we ought to take a look at that. Let's turn over to Mark the 5th chapter verses 18–19:

“And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed Him that he might be with Him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee” Mark 5:18–19.

There are lots of Bible studies he couldn't have given. I don't know that he could give a one. He couldn't explain the prophecies, doubtless. But there was one thing he *could* tell—that Jesus had done something for him.

My dear friend, if Jesus has *not* done anything for you that you know of, press in and *let* Him do something for you. We'll help you. There's not a soul here tonight but can go out from these doors knowing that your hand is in the hand of Jesus. You don't have to wait for something else to happen. You don't have to delay till a more convenient season.

Tonight the One that gave His life for you says, “You are so precious, so precious that if you were the only one in this world, I would die for you.”

Oh, friend, if that's so, why not get the salvation He paid such an infinite price to share with you? And then, having received it, why not enter at once, I mean that, not next week, not tomorrow, tonight, tonight, why not enter into the work of letting Jesus use you to help others? There is just one thing for the blood-bought soul, just one thing. And that's this work of winning souls to Christ.

“For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever” Psalm 49:8.

I'd like to ask some questions. First, dear friends, is there somebody here that has never given your life fully to Jesus who *will* tonight? Will you stand up?

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” Matthew 10:32.

Somebody that has never made a full surrender to Christ but you will tonight, will you stand up?

Another question: is there somebody here tonight that once knew the Lord, but you've lost touch with Him? Will you give your life to Jesus tonight anew? Will you once more put that little hand of yours in the hand that bears the scars of the cross? Will you just now make that full surrender over again to Jesus if you've lost touch with Him? Will you stand? Somebody here that God speaks to, somebody that needs to get in touch with Christ that once knew Him.

Now, you that God spoke to on that first call, anytime while this meeting is still going on that your heart responds, you stand up, whether I'm talking directly to you or not. The door has been opened—step in.

And you that God has spoken to as I've given the invitation to come back to Him, you that have lost touch with Him, any time as I'm making these calls, friend, stand up for Jesus. Don't delay. Christ is calling.

I have another question. This is to one person here tonight. It might be you. There might be more than one, but it's to one.

Is there somebody here tonight that says, "Brother Frazee, this message was for me tonight. I've been letting other things keep me. Tonight I see how precious a soul is. And from now on, I'm going to concentrate on souls. I'm going to eat, I'm going to sleep, I'm going to work, I'm going to do the necessary things, but I'm going to remember from now on it's just for one thing I'm living. That's to win souls"?

Somebody that knows that God brought you to this meeting to hear this message and you're responding to that call, I want you to stand.

[“Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart” by Leon Tucker.]

You may be seated.

Now, I'd like to invite a number of you that have stood and others who God's Spirit may move upon to just come right up here and give your personal response to this message tonight. Let's keep it right in focus, dear friends, right in focus. Without any delay, let a number take these front seats and just speak your response to this message tonight.

[Testimony meeting follows]

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