Daily Devotion #157

**The Value of a Soul**

***2 Corinthians 8:9 (NASB)*** *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”*

Someone recently asked me an interesting question. They asked, “If you could do or have anything in ministry that you wanted, what would it be”? It didn’t take long to come up with the answer. It is what I am doing. My heart’s passion is to teach the Bible so clearly that the Spirit of God uses my words and thoughts about His Word to cause the lost to want to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Let me pose that same question to you. What is the passion of your heart? What is it that you could do if you were given the opportunity without limits? Would it be to be more widely-recognized and honored as a celebrity or some famous person? Would it be to be the one who solves the world’s problems? Would you want to be the best in your field of study? What would your answer be?

The challenge that is always in front of me is that there is nothing more important than seeing souls in heaven. And I believe that is the goal of our Lord. It certainly was when He was on the earth. In fact, the whole reason He came was to get people into heaven. To rescue lost souls. To make a way for all who see their lostness spiritually, to be forgiven of their sin so they could be in heaven with Him one day. And to do so, He left everything.

As Paul was encouraging the Corinthian church to finish the collection of money for the saints in Jerusalem, He used Jesus as an example of the greatest of sacrifices. The people evidently thought they were really sacrificing themselves to give to help the believers in Jerusalem, but they were not finishing what they started. So Paul was telling them to wrap up their giving so that when he arrived, the offering would be ready to go. And to help them get past their feelings of how much they had to sacrifice, he reminded them of what Jesus had done for them. He reminded them that Jesus was rich in heaven in all ways, but because He loved them, He gave up His home and His place, to come and sacrifice His life for them (and us). Paul knew there was no greater example of sacrifice than Jesus and what He did for humanity.

The damage sin has done to the human heart is incredible. Sin has caused every living soul to be so self-centered that it can not and will not sacrifice itself for anyone or anything unless it gets something from the deal. That selfishness has so affected humanity that it flows into the church. Many, many people receive their salvation and think that’s all that is needed. But they neglect to think about others who need to be born again. If the church is negligent over anything, it is her lack of concern for the lost souls who are in the same predicament that the saved ones were in before Jesus rescued them.

Beloved, you and I have been given a great gift. Our souls have been bought out of the bondage of slavery to sin and the punishment of that sin. Can you imagine the day you step foot in the heavenly Kingdom of God? No you can’t. Because you have never been there. But by faith you and I know it is real because Jesus came to prove to us it is real. And one day you and I will be forever free from this world and the effects of sin. Wouldn’t you like to take as many people with you as you can? The truth is, you and I were saved by Jesus, not just so we could have a place in heaven, but to also help others come to know Him so they can be there too.

It is imperative for the souls who live around you that they have an opportunity to hear the Gospel. I know that many people feel like they can’t tell someone about Jesus, but remember what Paul said to the Corinthian church. Though He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that through His willingness to leave the riches of heaven, you might become rich with the riches of His Kingdom.

Don’t be selfish with your salvation. Tell others. Make reaching the lost the priority of your life. Jesus did! And if He did, how could our priority be any different? If He was willing to go through what He went through to buy us out of sin, can’t you and I do and be in this life what we need to do and be so others will have the same benefit and blessings? Look to the right and the left and see all the souls who need Jesus. Now tell them about Him.