

The Price of Salvation

The price of Salvation? Why it is priceless! There is no way to buy it! Every real Christian knows that it is a free gift from God that cannot in any way be purchased or earned. Although many who believe themselves to be Christians are certain that one must do good works in order to be saved. But those who know even a little bit of Scripture realize that Ephesians 2:8,9 clearly tells us otherwise, as do a number of the other Bible verses. Ephesians 2:8, 9 says, “For by grace are you saved through faith; and not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.”

So it's very clear from Scripture that you cannot get to heaven through good works, that is through good deeds, clean living, dedication, sacrifice, pain and suffering, self denial, payment in goods, money, gold, penance, prayers, confessions or anything else under the sun. God's grace of salvation is a free gift, which absolutely no one deserves, for we are ALL hopelessly wicked. God Himself tells us so through His spokesman Jeremiah in chapter 17 verse 9. Here God says, “The heart (that is every human heart) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Having said all that, there is, nevertheless, a price to be paid for salvation, that is for the blessed privilege having received eternal life in heaven.

When one becomes saved, that is redeemed, born-again, he or she becomes the son or daughter of God. Much of the world that believe that there is a God, think that everyone is a child of God, but this is not true. Scripture, God's inerrant Word, makes it clear that only those who possess the genuine saving faith in Jesus Christ and the purpose for which He shed His blood, become the children of God. Again, no amount of virtue or good deeds or prayers can make you a son or daughter of God. But once you have believed in Jesus, unto a repentant saving faith, you do have a Father, who is our blessed God in heaven. As any good father, He takes special notice and care of His own children. Surely He knows all people and cares for them, and would want that none be lost, but all come to repentance (2John 3:19). But His principal concern is for His own children. As

a good father, He guides, educates, reprimands, punishes and rewards, He does not do these things to or for those who are not His. They, in many instances, may do better in worldly ways than His own, for there is another father mentioned in the Scripture, the prince of the world, a highly enabling spirit who delights in spoiling his own, feeding them with carnal pleasures and guiding them in any and all ways which might keep them from knowing the heavenly father, and from believing in His only begotten Son Jesus. So what is this price of salvation? Scripture tells us, in Jesus' own words, in Matthew 10:22 that "You (the redeemed) shall be hated of all men for His (Jesus) sake." That is surely a severe price to pay for accepting the free gift of salvation, for this hatred can and does manifest in many painful ways, ranging from rejection to torturous physical death. Over the centuries tens of millions of the faithful sons and daughters have suffered painful deaths for nothing more than their faith in Jesus and their refusal to renounce it. This manner of persecution continues unabated today across much of the world. We don't see it because it isn't reported by the official media. The extreme reprisal for the faith has not yet arrived on our shores. But reprisal does already exist here in many less violent forms. Of course, if you choose to hide your sonship for fear of reprisal, and avoid claiming your faith and allegiance to Jesus, if fear of rejection or worse brings about your silence or timidity, what kind of son or daughter are you? Could it be that you have taken His name, Christian, in vain and are not really His son or daughter after all?

If you are truly His son or daughter, the Father teaches, reprimands and punishes as He fine-tunes His own in preparation for their position in eternity. This can also be most painful and severe even though applied with genuine Fatherly love. Scripture describes these preparations as intended to cause spiritual growth (Romans 5:3-5), to build faith (1Peter 1:6,7), to prevent us from falling into sin (1Peter 4:12), to provide just earthly punishment for known sins (Hebrews 12:5-61, James 4:17, Romans 14:23, John 1:9), to teach obedience and discipline (Acts 9:15, Philippians 4:11-13) and to equip us to comfort others (2Corinthians 1:3:4-4). Compared to, and along with the normally difficult condition in common with most of the rest of the world of the unbelieving, these are a few of the additional prices which the redeemed must pay as a consequence of their saving faith.

Let there be not a moment of thought that these payments are unnecessary, unfair or to be feared or avoided. If they were, our Father would not permit them. If we have salvation by grace through faith, that faith cannot doubt, or it isn't faith. If there be the true saving faith, that faith will be evidenced by our reactions to these tests, punishments, teaching, etc. A saving faith will accept these as the just, righteous and loving workings in our Fathers in His personal and intimate dealings with His elect family, dealings which are a necessary part of His conditioning us for the place He has prepared for us in His eternal home. From both a practical and Biblical perception, it seems logical to assume that the more appropriately one responds to these workings, the more quickly and less painfully, this maturing and preparation process might be completed.

Thus in conclusion it would seem that the moment of salvation does not necessarily, if ever, bring us out of the stressful, painful and sorrowful aspects of life. In fact, the more committed we are to Jesus as our Lord, the more intense are the adversities likely to become. However, along with genuine redemption, that "peace which passeth all understanding" begins to develop deep within the new heart. Along with it, comes an inner supernatural strength, a strange kind of strength, one that grows out of the weakness of self as the Holy Spirit slowly replaces ones self with Himself. One way in which this inner peace and strength might be described, is that one who is genuinely redeemed knows and rests his or her whole being on the rock solid foundation of knowing that whatever adversities befall us here, it is but a tiny momentary prelude, to the eternal perfect life ahead.

Not only is it a prelude, but a tempering and preparing process most beneficial to the soul. From this, it is evident that genuine salvation extracts a high price during this short earthly portion of one's life. At times it may seem grossly unfair when the redeemed son or daughter of God experiences pain and suffering and complete failure from an earthly perspective, while the unsaved deniers of Jesus prosper and seem to enjoy this life in far more comfort and material success. But the redeemed must always keep in mind that theirs is the most precious, longest lasting gift conceivable. They are infinitely wealthier

than the riches most powerful monarchs ever could be. They have obtained that for which God created life in the first place. They have His love and His presence for eternity. This, indeed, is the priceless gift, which no one who has ever surely received it would ever consider not worth the price it cost either in the consequences, or the commitment to obedience, which followed its receipt. The millions of martyrs who died horrible deaths rather than renounce Jesus as their Lord and Savior bare powerful witness to this greatest truth.