

More Than A Body: A Precious Soul



At some point in the day, most of us will look at ourselves in a mirror. What might surprise us is that what we see there is not all that there is to us.

The Bible tells us that in addition to our body we all possess a 'spirit' or a 'soul'.

When He was on the earth Jesus Christ did much to help people who were suffering physically, but He also made it clear that there was a greater need which concerned their souls.

He said, "**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**" (Mark 8:36).

We Know We Have a Soul

Unlike the animals, we have been made in God's image and so we are aware that we have a soul.

Though people are bombarded by the theory of evolution and the idea that we are nothing more than just an advanced machine, people have this conviction that there is something more to us.

Wherever we go on the earth we find people are naturally religious and all cultures have always believed in a life beyond the grave.

People's such as the ancient Egyptians, Native Americans and Vikings all made sure the dead were buried with provisions for the after life.

The Bible says: "God has put eternity in man's heart" (Eccl. 3:11). We possess a spirit and have been made to relate to God. We are more than just mind, nerve, muscle and bone.

This is why unlike the animals we are able to show love and enjoy music, marvel at a sunset, laugh and be saddened and be shown of our wrong doing through God's word, the Bible. We have souls!

Our Soul Can Be Lost

Christ warns us: "**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**"

Imagine someone who decides to spend a lifetime's money and earnings

on one set of clothes. What they wear will be made with gold thread, studded with rubies and diamonds and have pearls for buttons and will cost over a million pounds.

Yet they then tell us that they will wear it for just one day and then get rid of it! We would think they were mad to put all they had into something which will only last a short time and have nothing left for the rest of their lives.

But do you know the Bible says this is what we do with our bodies! They last but a lifetime – which is so short compared to eternity.

One day we will put our bodies off—they will be discarded, yet we neglect the soul – that part of us which never dies.

We can put everything into looking after our bodies. We can eat the right food and wear the best clothes and put on the right make up. Some regularly attend the gym and may even undergo plastic surgery to try and stop the process of ageing.

We can put so much into caring for and pampering our bodies, yet we ignore our souls.

We don't think about the need to know God and be right with God. We

don't think about where we and our souls will spend eternity.

To show us how foolish this is, Christ gives us this incredible picture. He says: "**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**"

Christ has in mind someone who not only has millions of pounds, but they possess all the earth's wealth, power sources, gold, silver, precious stones, diamonds, uranium, vast cities, jungles and underwater paradises.

*the soul...that part
of us
that never dies*

They have all the delights that beauty, fame and wealth can give and all the honour and power given to ruler and world leaders.

Yet this person who has "the world" has no concern for their soul. They don't worry about whether they are right with God or think about where they will spend eternity.

Christ says it is worthless - "of no profit" to have had the wealth of a thousand worlds and to then lose our souls.

All this world can give us can never compensate for that loss - to spend eternity shut out from the presence of God and under His judgement.

How do you lose your soul? We lose our souls through neglect. We put the

things of this world—its wealth, possessions and pleasures before the need of our never dying soul.

We never think about the greater need to have our sins forgiven through Jesus Christ and to be reconciled to God.

Your Soul Can Be Saved

Jesus Christ spoke of the fact that we have a soul and that our soul can be lost forever.

He has provided for the greatest need

Yet wonderfully he also said, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost” (Luke 19:10).

Christ came into the world to save sinners. His coming was foretold some 700 years earlier by the prophet Isaiah, who declared: “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin...” (Isa.53:10).

Isaiah tells here that Jesus would come and suffer body and soul in the place of sinners as an offering for sin. He would bear what sinners deserve so that all who trust in Him can be forgiven and accepted by God.

The cover of this bulletin shows us the glories of Autumn. The Bible says that the spectacular colours we see are all

speaking to us of the power and glory of the God who made us and has made, “everything beautiful in its time.”

It is wonderful how God has given us so much to enjoy – even the colours of Autumn.

Yet wonderfully we can know this God – the creator of all things. We can be reconciled to Him.

He has not only provided for us materially, but in His goodness He has provided for the greatest need we have – that of our souls.

Many think that all this life is for is to satisfy our bodies with pleasure and good things (just “eat, drink and be merry”).

The Bible shows us there are far greater things to be known and enjoyed, such as the real experience of the love of God and knowing the Lord Jesus Christ; the comfort and joy of knowing peace with God and of being sure that when we leave this life, we know it will not be a disaster, but the gateway into the presence of God.

Do you see the need of your soul?