

THE VALUE OF SALVATION



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FOREWORD

Nowadays we often hear and see many of God's children falling away; they give up or leave their faith and become followers of another religion due to persecutions, positions, wealth, life partner, and so on.

If we observe more closely, one of the main reasons they are willing to give up their faith is because they do not know or realize how invaluable the salvation they have gained when they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Therefore, as God's children we need to study and ponder on the real value of this salvation God has bestowed on us so that we would keep, maintain, and treasure our salvation.

The Lord Jesus made it clear that in the end times many of God's children would turn away from their faith and become apostates, *“and then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one*

another.” (Mt 24:10, KJV). Another version puts it this way, “*At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other.*” (NIV). Therefore, today we should be more serious in studying and doing the Word, so that we would have a solid foundation as our base to strengthen our faith, and be able to remain faithful in following the Lord as long as we live, until the end.

*2 Ptr 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue **knowledge.***

Soli Deo Gloria,

The writer

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As a Christian I am convinced that we all believe God is righteous and just. However, still many are somewhat confused to see the situations and facts around us, even what are happening today in our lives, and wonder what God's justice is really like?

Often-times contradictory matters are confronted with the concept that God is righteous and just. For example, many people think that since God is righteous and just, why am I not created as pretty as A, or as handsome as B? Some also comment that if God is righteous and just, why is my health not as good as others', or why was I not born into a rich family, or why am I not as fortunate as others, and so on.

Examples of such confusion could disseminate or spread to other areas, such as convenience or welfare, struggles of life, housing, employment and many others.

Where is God's righteousness and justice?

Actually many people not only do not understand how the LORD God acts in His righteousness and justice, in fact they still question whether He is truly righteous and just? If God is righteous and just, why don't I experience the effects of that? As human beings, are we not equally created by God? Then why should we receive different treatments and fates?

A Father And His Four Daughters

There was a father who had four daughters. The father wanted to give them gifts. Each child would get a box with the same kind of present, which was to be placed on the left side, but

each of them would also obtain a different additional gift. So each of them would receive a similar present added with a different one.

The youngest daughter got a present plus a 20 grams gold necklace. The third daughter was given a similar present plus a 10 grams gold bracelet. The second daughter was given a similar present plus a 5 grams gold ring, while the firstborn daughter was given a similar present plus 1 piece of plastic clip.

Do you think this man as a father had treated his daughters righteously or justly? In general, we may consider this unfair or unjust. Why was one given an additional present of a 20 grams gold necklace, the other one a 10 grams gold bracelet, then the next one a 5 grams gold ring, while the eldest only a piece of plastic clip?

In this case, the father's fairness or justice can only be understood once we know for certain what was in the box of the main present, **which each of the four daughters received equally**. If the content of the box was a 20-

carats good quality diamond, surely the addition of a 20 grams gold necklace, or a 10 grams gold bracelet, or a 5 grams gold ring, even a simple plastic clip to such a precious gift would hardly make any difference, since the price of a flawless diamond as big as 20 carats could reach 500.000 USD.

If the price of gold is 40 USD per gram, then 20 grams of gold would be equal to 800 USD. So the total price obtained by those children consequently would be 500.800, 500.400, 500.200, and 500.000 USD only, which virtually were of no significant difference. Why? Gold would lose its value, because the value is too small compared with the value of the diamonds, especially if the gifts were of a grand size bigger than 100 carats, with an estimation over 10 million USD. Thus, gold of 200-800 was considered insignificant.

Passing from Hell to Heaven

Likewise, when we receive salvation we will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, and this is something so amazing and wonderful that all wealth and other prosperous conditions we are in would become insignificant, something of no value at all. Through the redemption by the Lord Jesus Christ, we are removed or transferred from hell, and not only transferred or redeemed from hell, but we would go into heaven.

Because of sin we are separated from God, and condemned to go into hell. However, by the death of Jesus Christ, we are redeemed from being sent to hell and even be granted eternal life in heaven. From being condemned to live in hell forever we are ransomed and changed to being blessed and then enter into heaven to live there forever.

Differences between Prison and Hell

Many people today who are facing a law-suit, are prosecuted for a particular offense. They fought desperately, engaged the best lawyers, making the best efforts so as not to be put behind the bars. But what if being put in jail is compared with being sent to hell? So very different, isn't it? Like heaven and earth. Let's say that someone is imprisoned for 5 to 10 years, or even for life. He would endure it at the most for a few decades only, whereas if we go to hell, we would be punished and tortured forever as described in the following verse:

Matthew 25:30 "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Mark 9:44 "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched".

To be sent to hell would last forever and ever, being tortured at all times. Life in prison may be difficult, but not tortured at all times. In hell the torture goes on and on, forever, and terribly awful. But, on the contrary, if we may enter into heaven, what

would we get there? We would be given joy forever, an eternal joy.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Thus the implied meaning of the value of salvation is that we are redeemed, saved from the eternal torment in hell, and we would be given eternal life full of joy in heaven.

Justice of God

Indeed, God offers salvation to **every human being**, without exception, to be received freely, as recorded in the following verse:

*In 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever** believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

And as described previously, whenever we believe and accepted God's offered salvation which is so invaluable, of such an inestimable value, then other things become meaningless.

That's why when the Apostle Paul knew and experienced the love of God which is realized in the salvation through Jesus Christ, he stated: *“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”* (*Php 3:8*).

The Apostle Paul did not only state that other things, either wealth, worldly pleasures, honor and other secular matters are of no value at all, he even said that those things he counted but dung or trash compared to the salvation the LORD God had given him. Why as trash? Because God's offered salvation through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, for our redemption from hell (the eternal death), is incomparable!

The Millenium Kingdom of Christ and His Saints

When we study more deeply, in fact when we receive salvation through Jesus Christ, we are

not only redeemed from hell and get the assurance to live eternally in heaven, but prior to it we would join in the Millenium Kingdom (One Thousand Years Reign of Christ and His Saints). This is clearly recorded in the Book of Revelation that later, before entering into heaven, we would be (present) in the world for a 1000 years.

*Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be **priests of God and of Christ, and shall **reign** with him a thousand years.***

At that time we would be priests of God who offer praises to God. And besides, we would also reign with the Lord Jesus Christ and enjoy life in this world as kings.

Salvation Is A Gift by Grace

Many people, even Christians underestimate the concept of salvation. Since salvation is a gift by grace, which can be obtained at no charge/price, they often show indifference and **treat salvation as if it is something cheap**

(unworthy or unimportant). Yet, if we but study more, this salvation is made possible because God redeemed mankind from the condemnation of their/our sins through Christ, by sacrificing Christ's own life. Now, since God redeemed us from our sins by the death of Christ, His Son, why should this salvation be given freely? Salvation is given freely not because it is so cheap. On the contrary, because **salvation is so invaluable, so very expensive** that no man would be able to pay for it.

Whereas no human being is able to pay for the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, thus God bestows it as grace.

Back to the previous parable of the 20-carats diamond, actually one of the most expensive diamond today is the Koh-I-Noor, the diamond sought and pursued by many, and had consumed victims up to a few thousands perhaps even tens of thousands people. This diamond is now mounted on the crown of the Queen of England. The price estimated is at around 1 billion USD, a very high price indeed. Although

the diamond is so expensive, and let's say we have it, this very diamond would not pay for our salvation! Neither the richest man in the world today, Bill Gates, even with his fortune of 95 billion dollars. If this whole wealth of 95 billion dollars were offered to pay for this salvation, it too would be inadequate, because we read in Matthew 16:26,

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Hence, even if someone gains the whole world, he still would not be capable to pay for his life. He would not be able to pay for his own salvation. These all show us how expensive is the price of this eternal salvation, so we can understand why the Lord grant it as His grace, since whatever we have and however expensive those are, there is nothing we can do to pay for this salvation.

If we understand and always bear in mind that salvation is so very expensive, then surely none of us would want to relinquish that salvation. No one will ever want to give it up

just for the sake of either his/her partner/spouse, position, or wealth, however much it is. Even persecuted, we would not let go of our salvation.

As children of God, we might bear the intention to hold fast our salvation, let's say we have promised to remain faithful to the Lord so that we would truly experience what the apostle Paul expressed in 2 Timothy 4:7, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

If such is our conviction, then it is indeed something good, even something that we must own. Yet James 2:14 says,

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?"

The above verse explains that it is not enough when we express our faith merely by our speech or confession of belief. We must show it **in our actions** or conducts too as the manifestation of our faith. Have we already perform such actions of faith? Let us examine ourselves and find out whether each of us truly

belong to those who hold fast to our faith, by following these conducts:

First: Our prayer life.

Let us compare ourselves with the followers of another religion. They pray five times a day, at the appointed times, starting at dawn. Besides that, they also have to follow the ritual to cleanse themselves before they pray.

We as Christians can pray at any time, and there are relatively no rituals to follow as they ought to. The question is: **how many times do we pray every day?**

Second: Read the Bible.

Many followers of other religions diligently read their Sacred Books which are written in a language foreign to them. Hence to be able to understand, they have to learn that foreign language. Yet even in such circumstance, they

are determined to read the Book through and diligently do so.

Our Holy Bible is written in our national language, and we can also find some translations in our mother tongues. Communities in some areas, where they do not master the Indonesian language, can get a Bible in their local languages.

The question is: **how often do we read the Bible?** Now, until today in our lifetime or after so many years following Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, how many times have we completed reading through the Bible, from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation, while the language is easily understood?

Third: Worship faithfully.

Some religions built their temples far up the hills. To go there the people have to ascend many stairs provided, some a 100, 200, 300, or more, up to a thousand steps. Some adherents of those religions even pray at every step before

reaching the temple or the place of worship! Going up each step of the stairs they would fall on their knees and pray, then rise up to ascend another step, kneel down again to pray, and so on. Thus they have to go there very early in the morning, at dawn, and would reach the place of worship in the afternoon. Some are shielded by an umbrella and some reject any protection, so that they would probably be burnt by the scorching sun and soaked by the rain. In fact some of them reject any kind of cover or cushion to protect their knees while praying, so after several times kneeling down to pray, their knees start bleeding.

Christianity does not teach us to do so. The regulations of our worship are simple: go in, sit down, and attend the worship. The question is: **How often and how seriously do we go into God's house?** Some people may be reluctant to go to church even when it rains but a little, or the traffic seemed to be jammed, or there are other programs or events more interesting and

considered more important than to attend a worship service in the church.

Likewise, we should be concerned about our attitude as we worship. Let us take for example the community in Bali. Those who attend the worship are so serious. Wearing their best clothes, clad in very neat uniforms, they pray very solemnly. On the contrary, some of us are heard chatting, and some also eat and drink while attending the worship service in church.

Fourth: Sacrificing our wealth and future

The followers of some particular religion ought to make a pilgrimage to their Holy Land in order to consummate the requirements of their religion. To accomplish that journey they have to plan the time well, learn and follow the procedures and regulations of worship prescribed, and of course there is also a huge cost to spend. And we often hear that some of them have to sell their houses, rice-fields, and

precious possessions for the sake of completing those religious requirements.

Whereas we, at the most we are apt to give some money as an offering, put into the collecting bags or tray passed on during the worship service. **How much do we put therein** as an expression of our gratefulness for all God's provisions and blessings every day? And **do we remember to give our tithes too?**

Many young men in Thailand were willing to **give up all their possessions and their future to become monks**, who would live purely on the mercy of others as long as they live.

For what purpose do they do all those?

Basically they do all those **to obtain salvation.**

From us is required only our tithes, a ten percent of what we earn, meaning that we still have ninety percent left to keep for us, while the followers of that religion **sacrifice all their wealth and their future!**

However, when we talk about giving our tithes, it is not because God wants 10% of our money. Let us observe the verse of Malachi 3:10,

*“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and **pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**”*

This verse above emphatically describes that the tithes are rendered not because God wants to take from us, but rather because **God wants to bless us abundantly!**

Do we faithfully obey to give our tithes?

Besides the tithes, we are also required to care and provide for our relatives as is written in 1 Timothy 5:8,

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

God clearly commands us to help our kinsfolk or relatives. Do we do it?

James 2:26 says, *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is **dead** also.”*

Therefore, as God's children who have faith, who hold our salvation firmly, let us all take action as an obvious manifestation of our faith. Do not wait, because time is very short.