

## Soul Conscious

Mat 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?

- How often do we ask ourselves “is what I’m about to do going to have any effect, negative or positive, on the salvation of either my own soul or the soul of another?” And do we look at others in categories such as family, friends, neighbors or co-workers before looking at them from the point of view that within each of them there lies a God breathed soul that will eventually pass from this life into the next, spiritual realm?

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Searching for the lost.

1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers (*Gk.3941- alien resident*) and pilgrims (*Gk.3927- resident foreigner*)\*\*(*“But I’m a citizen of the USA!” Your body may well be but your soul has an eternal home awaiting it.*), abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation (*Gk.391- behavior*) honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers (*accuse you falsely of doing things that are against the higher authorities\**), they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

*\*\*Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city.*

*\*Luk 23:1 And the whole multitude of them arose, and led Him unto Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a King.*

*Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also.*

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- One of those things that might be giving us hesitation in our reaching out to those around us with the gospel, could be the hypocrisy we feel because we were once in their place. But we shouldn’t. Remember, as Christians we were washed! It’s now **their** turn to experience the same freedom of servitude in Christ Jesus! It’s time for **them** to understand how precious they are as a soul created from dust by hand of a loving God.

Luk 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5 And when he hath found *it*, he layeth *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven **over one sinner that repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luk 15:8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find *it*? 9 And when she hath found

it, she calleth *her* friends and *her* neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God **over one sinner that repenteth.**

- Obviously, a soul is worth more than a sheep or coin. That was the point Jesus was making.

Luk 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? (*Shows the all-knowing nature of God.*) 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: **ye are of more value than many sparrows.**

- We are the central focus of all that God created! All that was made was made for mankind to subdue and make subject to himself because we alone have been given the mental faculties to do so.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels (*in human form*)\*; Thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of Thy hands: 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. **But** now we see **not yet all things put under him.** 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels (*in human form*) for (*purpose*) the suffering of death (*since spirit cannot die*), crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste **death** (*the one thing that man cannot control*) for every man.

\**Rev 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

- The one thing that man has no power over, because he has little to no control over sin, is death! It didn't exist when man was first created but since then sin entered. That's why Jesus came.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Luk 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

- There was never a quid pro quo when it came to who it is that we are to seek out to win over to Christ. Sinners come in many shapes, sizes, colors and backgrounds. Even those we might consider our enemies are subject to the gospel call.

Mat 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 **That** ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others?* do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

- If “God is not respecter of persons” as Peter told Cornelius (*Act 10:34*), neither are we to be.

Mar 2:15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and His disciples: for there were many, and they followed Him. 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto His disciples, How is it that He eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? 17 When Jesus heard *it*, He saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Luk 7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired Him that He would eat with him. And He went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. 37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38 And stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden Him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if He were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth Him: for she is a sinner. 40 And Jesus answering said unto him, **Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee.** And he saith, Master, say on. 41 **There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And He said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged. 44 And He turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest Me no water for My feet: but she hath washed My feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest Me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss My feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed My feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little. 48 And He said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven. 49 And they that sat at meat with Him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? 50 And He said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.********

Mat 9:4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, **Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? 5 For whether is easier, to say, *Thy sins be forgiven thee*; or to say, Arise, and walk? 6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. 7 And he arose, and departed to his house.**

- Man seems to have more respect for others who are of the upper crust of society with the idea that they alone can be saved or deserve our attention even though God respects **every** person as a potential saint. But what about those that struggle or have fallen away?

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Welcome back.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are **kept by the power of God** (*gospel- Rom 1:16*) through faith unto (*purpose*) salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live **by faith: but** if *any man* draw back (*Gk.5288- to cower or shrink*), My soul (*says God*) shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back (*Gk.5289- apostasy*) unto perdition (*Gk.684- ruin or loss: -destruction*); but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

- “Once saved always saved” is a false doctrine that will send countless souls to an eternal separation from God! We are sustained by the power of the gospel **as long as** we are faithful to its Author Who wrote every word of it in His own blood. Falling away will cause the eternal destruction of any soul. But, it’s never too late before it’s too late!

Luk 15:11 And He said, **A certain man had two sons:** 12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. (*To the Jewish listener this would have been the ultimate in desperation and Jesus used this as an example knowing that.*) 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he **came to himself** (*This is the first step in the process of a fallen Christian returning to the ark of safety.*), he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! (*He began to hunger and thirst for what the others that stayed had.*) 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. (*At that point he knew he was better off being at the bottom of the barrel than to be outside in the world.\**) 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran (*It can be said that God runs to meet the erring saint when he repents.*), and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Luk 15:7 *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven **over one sinner that repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

\*1Co 5:5 *To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (Sometimes a little personal discomfort that occurs when there is a separation between loved ones is to be considered as nothing when compared to the eternal separation that would come for them from God later.)*

- Oftentimes there are those in some congregations who just can’t get over the idea that one of their brethren felt the sincere urge to get his life straightened out, to repent and return to that great Shepherd of his soul. “Oh he’ll never change! He was like that before

he became a Christian and that's how he'll be when he dies!" Many of these with such attitudes are brethren who should know better having been in the church for some time. They are the ones who can keep a repentant soul from returning. What if the older brother of the prodigal would have met him on the road leading to his home?

Luk 15:25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him. 29 And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: 30 But as soon as this **thy** son was come (*Notice he didn't say "my brother".*), which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. 31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. 32 It was meet (*Gk.1163- necessary*) that we should make merry, and be glad: for this **thy brother** (*Shows that God will never accept one brother disowning another. Whether faithful or not, brethren will always be brethren!*) was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Jas 5:19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that **he which converteth the sinner** from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Eze 3:21 ... if thou warn the righteous *man*, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

- Not only are we keeping another soul from eternal punishment, if we were to see their sin and do nothing about it we risk our own eternal destiny.

2Co 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, **as we have received mercy** (*Since we have obtained God's unmerited mercy, shouldn't it be the ministry of every saint to encourage each other and share the gospel with those who have yet to receive it?*), we faint (*Gk.1573- to fail [in heart] Thayer: to be wearied out*) not \*; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully (*As some who are just looking to add to their numbers we are not to just see numbers, we are to see souls!*); but by manifestation (*Gk.5321- exhibition, that is, [figuratively] expression*) of the truth commending (*Gk.4921- introduce [favorably]*) ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is **hid to them that are lost:** (*Those that don't see it as being, or that try to cover up, the simplistic good news that it really is.*) 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we **preach not ourselves**, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

\* Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Joh 9:39 And Jesus said, **For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.** 40 And *some* of the Pharisees which were with Him heard these words, and said unto Him, Are we blind

also? **41** Jesus said unto them, **If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.**

**1Co 1:18** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

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**1Pe 1:17** And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, **pass the time of your sojourning** *here* in fear:

**Jas 4:14** Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

**1Pe 1:24** For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: **25** But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which **by the gospel** is preached unto you.

Hear: **Romans 10:14** ... "how shall they believe in **Him Whom** they have not heard?"

Believe: **Heb 11:6** ... "for he that commeth to **God** must believe that **He** is"...

Repent: **Act 3:19** ... "Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Confess: **Mat 10:32** "**Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven.**"

Be baptized: **1 Pet 3:21** "...baptism doth also (*not the only thing but is necessary to*) now save us..."

Remain faithful: **1 Cor 6:20** ... "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify **God** in your body, and in your spirit, which are **God's.**"

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