Can You Afford NOT To? (Part 2)

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 14th, 2021

Text: Revelation 21:1-7

### Intro

1. We recently attended a sales pitch, to which we had high sales resistance, but we were impressed with how it was presented.
   1. They started out by asking, “Can you afford not to” buy into their product?
   2. They then showed the average costs of doing things without their product.
   3. Only at the end of their presentation did they show us the benefits of their product, and at the very end they talked price!
2. We recently looked at the cost of choosing Hell as an eternal destination, both the physical and eternal costs:
   1. Free (No sacrifice or commitment to Christ, Matthew 7:13-14; Ephesians 2:1-3)
   2. Consequences for sin (I Corinthians 6:9-10)
   3. Prayers not heard or answered (I Peter 3:10-12)
   4. Summary of reviews: “One Star. I don’t recommend it!” (Jesus Christ, Mark 9:42-48)
3. After looking at the cost of Hell, and comparing it to the cost of getting to Heaven, “Can you afford NOT to?”

#### Choosing Christ: Physical Blessings

* 1. The church
     1. Mark 10:28-30: No matter where we go in this world there is family as the church is a kingdom without borders! *(The body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23)*
     2. Galatians 6:2, 10: We have a family ready to share in our burdens & struggles!
  2. Prayers heard & answered
     1. I Peter 3:10-12: God hears the prayers of the righteous!
     2. I John 5:14: “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”
  3. Physical necessities of life
     1. Matthew 6:25-34: Jesus said if His followers seek Him first the necessities of life will be taken care of! (David once wrote in Psalm 37:25: “I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread.”)
     2. Acts 11:27-30: When there was a famine throughout Judea, saints from all over the Roman provinces sent relief! They were used by God to take care of saints.
  4. Can you afford NOT to be in the body of Christ?

#### Choosing Heaven: Eternal Blessings

* 1. Eternal Life
     1. Matthew 25:46: The righteous are rewarded with eternal life!
     2. I John 5:11-13: Eternal life is given to those who believe in Jesus!
  2. Eternal Bliss
     1. Revelation 21:1-7
     2. A place in the presence of God (I John 3:2)
     3. A place without tears
     4. A place without death
     5. A place without mourning, crying, or pain (No longer any suffering)
  3. Eternity with Jesus
     1. John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18 (esp. 4:17)
     2. Jesus has gone to prepare a home for His followers, a place where He says, “where I am, there you may be also.”
     3. When He returns and His faithful rise to meet Him in the clouds, He will take them to the home He has prepared, where “we shall always be with the Lord.”
  4. Eternal Light
     1. Revelation 22:5
     2. In contrast to the eternal darkness of Hell, Heaven will be well lit, not by the sun or artificial light of any kind, but by God Himself!
     3. Imagine the joy of being in the presence of the Light of the world (John 8:12), in perpetual light!
  5. Eternal Paradise
     1. Revelation 2:7; 22:1-5
     2. The Tree of Life was once lost to men but can now be found in Jesus Christ!
     3. To Ephesus: “To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God” (Rev. 2:7)
     4. The water of life & the tree of life – It is Jesus Who can bring us to the Garden of Life (Paradise) and offer it freely to His faithful saints! (Rev. 22:1-4, 14, 17)
     5. An eternal Paradise in the presence of Jesus, where saints see His face and wear His name on their foreheads!
  6. Reviews!
     1. “I am in comfort here in Hades, cared for by Abraham. I can only imagine what comforts and joy await me in Heaven!” (Lazarus, the poor man from Luke 16:20-22, 25; See also, Revelation 21:1-7)
     2. “I was shown a vision by an angel of the Lord. The victory of Good over Evil has already been won and the Lord is in control. The beauties of Heaven can hardly be described, and at the end of the vision I was overcome. I can’t wait for the Lord’s return. Come Lord, Jesus, come!” (Apostle John, given a vision by an angel of the Lord, Revelation 1:17-19; 22:8, 20)
     3. “5 Stars. Comfy mansions. I highly recommend!” (Jesus Christ, John 14:1-3, NKJV)
  7. Can you afford NOT to be given the right to the Tree of Life in the Paradise of God?

## Conclusion

1. Jesus told His followers to count the cost of discipleship *(Luke 14:25-33)*
2. There are physical costs…
   1. Commitment (Mark 12:30; Revelation 2:10)
      1. Jesus wants all of you, not just a part! It is a lifetime commitment to Him, and that means to give up sinful things of the world.
      2. Must add self-control to your faith (II Peter 1:5-7)
      3. The ultimate cost: Your heart & soul! (Mark 12:30)
   2. Persecution (Mark 13:13; Luke 21:12; I Timothy 3:12)
      1. Jesus tells His followers that they will be hated by all because of His name, and that when the world hates them, know that it hated Him first (John 15:18)
      2. All who desire to live godly will be persecuted, and persecution has taken all manner of forms, even with saints losing their life! *Will you trust Him?*
      3. Jesus says, “the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”
   3. Loss of relationships, etc. (Luke 21:16-17)
      1. Jesus says even your own family may persecute you.
      2. Jesus lost crowds of His followers (John 6:66) and His own people shouted for His crucifixion (Mark 15:10-13)
      3. The church is God’s answer to lost relationships! (Mark 10:28-30)
3. If you die as you now live, or if the Lord comes and finds you as you are now, where will you spend your eternity? *Will you receive the reward of Heaven or the sentence of Hell?*
4. Can you afford NOT to become a Christian?
5. If you are not a Christian, you stand condemned already. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, remember His promise of eternal life to those who overcome! Repent!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!