

# "The High Cost Of A Free Gift"

## Introduction

- A. You have heard it said: "The best things in life are free!"
- B. This is especially true when you consider that the "best" thing in life is a gift.
  - 1. I am speaking of that which God offers to all who will accept it: "Eternal Life"
  - 2. It is truly a "gift from God"! - Romans 6:23
- C. And yet, though eternal life is a gift...
  - 1. A high cost was paid to offer the gift
  - 2. And a high cost must be paid to receive it!
- D. A high cost for a free gift? How can that be?
  - 1. This "paradox" can sometimes be difficult to comprehend.
  - 2. Upon closer examination, such "paradoxes" are not really contradictions, but expressions of very important spiritual truths!

## I. The Free Gift Of Salvation

- A. Many Have A Wrong Concept About How Salvation Is Obtained.
  - 1. They think that salvation is earned by the "good works" they do
  - 2. Consider this statement by a devout Muslim:  

**"ALL MY LIFE I HAVE OBEYED THE KORAN AND WORSHIPPED ALLAH FAITHFULLY. IF, AFTER DEATH, I FIND THAT THERE IS NO PARADISE AND THERE IS NO HOURIS WITH WHICH A MAN MAY BE COMFORTED, AS THE KORAN PROMISES, I SHALL FEEL THAT I HAVE BEEN MISERABLY CHEATED."**
  - 3. Many professing Christians have a similar concept of attaining heaven, that their reward is received because of:
    - a. Their good life
    - b. Their generous giving of their money
    - c. Their faithful attendance at church.
- B. But Salvation Is God's Gift To Undeserving Men.
  - 1. Offered while we were still sinners, ungodly, and enemies - **Romans 5:6-8**
  - 2. Not because we love God, but because He loved us!
  - 3. And it is offered to all who will receive it!
- C. Salvation, then, is offered "freely". But does that mean it costs nothing?
- D. Indeed, we shall see that nothing in all the universe has cost so much

## II. The High Cost Of Providing The Gift

- A. What It Cost The Father - **John 3:16 - Romans 8:32**
  - 1. It cost Him the sacrifice of His only begotten Son!
  - 2. He did not spare His Son in an effort to save us from our sins!

## B. What It Cost The Son – **Philippians 2:5-8**

1. It cost Him the renunciation of glory and majesty, which He had with the Father before coming to this world.
2. It cost Him the humiliation of servitude, even to the point suffering and finally dying by crucifixion for our sins.

## C. What It Cost The Holy Spirit - **Ephesians 4:30**

1. A ministry through the ages of patiently wooing the stubborn hearts of sinful men through the call of the gospel.
2. Suffering long with men who treat Him ill, being grieved when they resist Him.

D. So certainly from the viewpoint of its "provision", we can see "The High Cost Of A Free Gift".  
E. But the "acceptance" of this free gift is also costly

## III. The High Cost Of Accepting The Gift

A. It Costs The Denial Of Self, And The Renunciation Of Much That Men Hold Dear.

1. Paul, who gladly paid the cost, expressed it vividly in several passages

### **Galatians 2:20**

I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST; IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME; AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.

### **Philippians 3:7-8**

BUT WHAT THINGS WERE GAIN TO ME, THESE I HAVE COUNTED LOSS FOR CHRIST. YET INDEED I ALSO COUNT ALL THINGS LOSS FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS MY LORD, FOR WHOM I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, AND COUNT THEM AS RUBBISH, THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST.

2. One cannot accept Christ and His salvation on lesser terms than the complete surrender of self to Him!

B. This Is What Makes The Gospel Of Christ "A Hard Gospel" For Many To Accept.

1. They want to accept Jesus as Savior, but not as Lord of their lives.
2. No man can accept Jesus as "Savior of his soul" without accepting Him as "Lord of his life"!
  - a. Jesus Himself made this clear when He warned His hearers that the cost of discipleship is high – **Luke 14:25-33**
  - b. The lordship of Jesus over self, life, and possessions must be acknowledged if we are to know Him as Savior!
3. People must realize that Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach "repentance and remission of sins in His name"
  - a. There is no remission apart from repentance!
  - b. And repentance involves the whole life!
    - 1) Not only sorrow for the past, that leads to repentance

2) But zeal and fervor for the future, that affects how we will live

c. Repentance is therefore the abandoning of our own selfish way, to go God's way in obedience and fellowship with Him.

C. "Just Accept Christ And Be Saved" Is The Appeal Of Many.

1. And many people assume that it is a matter of "just accepting" Him, "with no strings attached"
2. However, consider the words of Jesus Himself - **John 14:21,23**
3. To "receive Jesus", then, requires a full surrender to the lordship of Christ, a sincere acceptance of His commandments - **John 15:10**

## Conclusion

A. That is why the "gift" of salvation, while offered freely, still comes a with high cost.

1. Salvation cannot be earned, nor merited, by any amount of good deeds
2. For even after a lifetime of diligent obedience we are still "unworthy servants"
3. But the Lordship of Jesus rightly demands a full surrender to His authority

B. Yes, the gift of salvation is costly

1. It cost God more than heaven can declare.
2. It cost Jesus the agony and shame of the cross.
3. Even today it costs the Holy Spirit who seeks to woo you through the gospel
4. And it costs everyone who truly receives it, the total submission of self.
5. Jesus has paid the high cost to offer you the gift of salvation...have you paid the high cost of accepting it?