

Part 4 – What Is Your Soul Worth?

In part 3 we learned that the redemption of our soul is precious because it cost Jesus Christ His life in the flesh; for it's through His precious blood shed that we are redeemed, *when* we believe upon Him. And, after Jesus Christ died to atone for our sins and redeem our soul, the blood sacrifices ceased *forever* because Jesus Christ fulfilled them *once and for all* (Heb 10:10). And, we also learned more about the fact that we cannot redeem our own soul, and there's nothing we can do to even keep our flesh body from dying. We may be able to prolong death for a while but death will come eventually. Therefore, the wise, the fool and the brutish (stupid) people all have one thing in common; which is that, no matter our status in life, or how smart or stupid we are, we're all going to die in the flesh someday. And, even though many don't like to face this fact, it's still going to happen. And even if they try to 'make a name' for themselves, that won't 'last forever' either. And even if they name buildings after themselves, they still won't be remembered forever. So, even those who have the most prestige and honor in society will still die, just like an animal does. So, it's really stupid for us to *only* think about the carnal things in life; and it's even *more* foolish to disobey God's Laws (which are for our good) just to try and obtain earthly riches that truly cannot make us happy nor enable us to live forever. And that's the thought we'll pick up in the conclusion of this great chapter in the Psalms...

Psalm 49

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

Now, this is a really interesting verse because it's quite prophetic of what God, through Jesus Christ, did (and *will* do) for His children. The word 'God' here is the same as it's been all throughout this great Psalm: 'Elohiym' (#430), which means the *Supreme* God, who is our *Creator*. And the word '**redeem**' is the same as back in verse 7, which is also the prime root for the word 'redemption' back in verse 8 too. It means *to ransom, to release or preserve* (#6299). And the word '**power**' is interesting because it actually means *a hand* (the open one [*indicating power, means, direction*, etc.], in distinction from OT:3709, the closed one); it's used (as noun, adverb, etc.) in a great variety of applications, both literally and figuratively (#3027). And the word '**grave**' is yet again *she'owl* or *sheol* (#7585) just as it was back in verse 14; it means *Hades or the world of the dead* (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates (#7585).

The *Companion Bible* points out that the term 'power of the grave' is a figure of speech (*Metonymy*, of cause, apx. 6) which simply means power is being used for the hand of the grave showing yet again that we in the flesh are powerless to keep our flesh body from dying. But, our Heavenly Father can save us from death in several ways. First, as many godly men and women throughout this earth age have found out, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) can 'redeem' us (save us) from death whenever He so chooses to. Again, he's done that for many people. He saved David from physical death many times throughout his life, as well as for Hezekiah and many others. But eventually, they did finally die, but the Lord kept them from dying *before* it was 'their time' to go. So, that's one way our Heavenly Father 'redeems us' from the power of the

grave (simply meaning, death of the flesh). But, of course, this is also applicable of what happens after our flesh body dies. For, through faith in our Heavenly Father and the Messiah (Jesus Christ), we will be saved from the ‘bad side’ of the gulf (Lk 16, what many call ‘hell’) when we die. Instead of going to ‘hell’, those who truly believe in God (Jesus Christ), and have remained faithful to Him, will go to ‘heaven’ (the ‘good side’ of the gulf, Lk 16) when they die. So, that’s another application of this verse. But then, of course, it also refers to the power of dying *spiritually*. We know from Heb 12:14 that Satan is also called ‘death’ because he’s the one that has the power to deceive us. Satan is, after all, the first of God’s children who learned to disobey (rebel) against God as well as the first one who began to lie (Ezek 28, John 8:44). Therefore, we can also be saved from *spiritual* death (being totally blotted out of existence in the lake of fire, Rev 20) through faith in God *and* the Messiah, Jesus Christ. In 1 Peter 3:18-22 we’re told that Jesus Christ even went and preached to the spirits in ‘prison’ (i.e. ‘hell’, which is the bad side of the gulf in the heavenly dimension we all go to after we die) so they too had a chance to repent and accept Jesus Christ’s salvation, through believing in the atonement of our sins, and have their soul redeemed by His precious blood. So, in both the physical and spiritual applications, our Heavenly Father (through Jesus Christ) is indeed our redeemer of our soul and saves us from the power of the grave. That’s why He’s given those who believe upon, and obey Him, His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to put off the ‘old man’ (our carnal mind, which is the part of us that wants to sin, Rom 8) and put on the ‘new man’ which is created into the image of God’s righteousness and holiness (Eph 4:24). As Rom 8:6 says, *to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace*. Thus, *though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day* (2 Cor 4:16) by knowledge of Jesus Christ (Col 3:10), which is God’s Word (John 1:1,14).

Now, the word ‘**receive**’ here means ***to take*** (#3947) and that simply means that our Heavenly Father receives (or takes) us back into His ‘family’ after we’ve made a good repentance. And, when we’re a part of the Body of Christ, we are entitled to His protection from the Devil (Satan) and all those who serve him (wittingly or unwittingly). And, when the Holy Spirit is within us, He’ll guide our heart and mind during our daily life (so long as we keep our mind on Him, continue to study His Word, and follow His guidance) so that we learn to overcome all temptations from the wicked ones (including Satan himself). Thus, Satan can no longer have power over us because, when we know the truth and are faithfully following it, we’re not deceivable anymore. As Jesus told Paul when He struck him down on the road to Damascus, his commission was *to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me* (Acts 26:18). It’s the truth (God’s Word) that cleanses (sanctifies) our ‘inner man’ (heart and mind) because it shows us that God’s Word *is* true and that Satan is a liar. And *that’s* what causes us to stop *wanting* to sin, which is why we’ll sincerely study God’s Word to learn *how not to sin* and strive to share the truth with others. Our faith in God’s Word (and Jesus Christ) is indeed what causes God to receive (take) us ‘back’ after we used to be part of the world that was in rebellion to God. And in this flesh body we have all sinned; we’ve all been fooled into following Satan and his wicked ‘ways of the world’ (Rom 3:23). Some even sinned back in the first earth age when they followed Satan. But all our sins

(even from the first earth age) can be forgiven *by faith in Jesus Christ* when we accept His atonement for our sins *and follow Him* (God's Word and Holy Spirit) wholeheartedly. So truly, the grave has **no** victory over those who put their trust in the Lord and *know* who their redeemer is, because we will eventually be given eternal life (when Jesus Christ returns) and the grave has no victory over that. As Paul so beautifully wrote...

55 *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

56 *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

57 *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Cor 15:55-57

In other words, Satan cannot stop Jesus Christ from giving us eternal life so long as we don't allow Him to distract us (stop us) from believing in, and faithfully serving, Jesus Christ. So, as Paul also so beautifully says in 2 Cor 4:16, *though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day*. Now, there's another 'selah' at the end of this verse. And that always means to stop and think about what *has been said* (in this verse 15) with what's *about to be said* (in verse 16). And the connecting thought here is the fear and the folly of the hopeless man (who only thinks with his carnal mind) with the true hope and wisdom (that comes from understanding truth, God's Word), ***which takes away fear...***

Psalm 49

16 *Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;*

Let's remember that this Psalm has been explaining a 'parable' that teaches us the undeniable fact that we all die in the flesh. And it doesn't matter if we're rich or poor, famous and powerful or not; we're all going to die. Thus, the Psalmist tells us not to be '**afraid**' (***to fear*** or ***be frightened***, #3372) just as he declared he would not 'fear' in the 'days of evil' back in vs 5. And the word '**one**' here is the same word 'high' back in verse 2. It is '*iysh*' (#376, see apx 14 II) and refers to a man as an individual or a male person. Apx 14 II in the *Companion Bible* explains that it means a '*great*' man, in contrast with ordinary man (i.e. Ps 62:9, Isa 2:9, 5:15, 31:8). And the word '**rich**' here means ***to accumulate*** or ***to grow rich*** (#6238) and the word '**glory**' can also mean ***abundance***, ***splendor*** or even ***honor*** (#3519). So, just because we see others 'getting ahead' in life (becoming very rich and wealthy) in life doesn't mean we should be afraid of them, nor should we be envious, as Psalms 37 clearly warned us. Remember, the point in life is not to gather up as many riches as you can possibly get, because we're all going to die and we cannot take any of the 'things' we've gotten with us when we go (1 Tim 6:7, Ecc 5:15). What matters most is *where* we go when we die. And *how we've lived our life here on earth is what dictates where we go*. Ecc 12:6-7 and 2 Cor 5 clearly tells us that all people, good and bad, go back to the heavenly dimension when we depart from our flesh body. And the parable of the 'rich man and Lazarus' in Lk 16 also declares this. And, importantly, it's the same 'dimension' we were at *before* we can to live in a flesh body. You can learn more about this in the following studies...

Where Are All of the People That Have Died? - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/323>

Where Did the People Go? - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/340>

Sinners Are Not Tormented Forever - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/330>

3 World Ages - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/190?single>

Spiritual and Material Dimensions - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/263>

What Were We Like In the Beginning - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/322>

So, just because we see others getting ‘filthy rich’ should not concern us, let alone make us afraid or envious of them. After all, one of the ‘themes’ of the Psalms (yea, of the whole Bible) is the fact that wicked truly don’t ‘get away’ with anything, even if it *seems* like they do *now*. Truly, they’re only ‘digging their own grave’, as we say today; because, when they die, they’ll be stuck in hell being *intensely* (and continuously) tormented *spiritually* [learn more about this in a special study via this link: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/330>]. And further, when Jesus Christ returns, all the wicked ones on earth will be deposed from power, losing not only all their riches but also their prestige and power too (Rev 18). So truly, the wicked ones will be ‘brought down’ by their own wicked words and works. In our heavenly Father’s Word, we’re *repeatedly* assured that, short of sincere repentance, the wicked of this earth will be convicted and die *by their own sword* - which is to say, by the weapons of their own devising, which includes the lies, deception and pronouncements *coming out of their mouths* which they’ve used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father’s kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). That’s a promise we should never forget. And if you ever have that thought cross your mind (that the wicked are ‘getting away’ with terrible things), go back to Psalms 37 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/423] and read the many grand promises in it; it’s one of the most comforting Psalms in this regard. Jesus Himself warned us about the wicked ones who are made rich by ill-gotten gains in Matt 19:23-26, and Paul gave a really good warning about this also in 1 Tim 6 where he pointed out that the love of money is the root of all evil. Truly, the only way we can ‘get into heaven’ (or have eternal life) is if we wholeheartedly embrace God’s Word and allow the Holy Spirit to help us clean our sins from our ‘inner man’. But those who love money *don’t do this* and that’s why we should not be afraid of the power they have (that comes from having a lot of money) *nor* be envious of them. As Psalms 37 so aptly says...

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

*9 For **evildoers shall be cut off:** but **those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.***

*10 For yet a little while, and **the wicked shall not be:** yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.*

*11 **But the meek shall inherit the earth;** and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*
Ps 37:7-11

Indeed, the wicked will be ‘cut off’ when Jesus Christ returns. They’ll be deposed from power, stripped of their wealth (and prestige) and be thrown in prison for the entire Millennium (Isa

24:22, Mth 13:37-42). *All their wealth will mean absolutely nothing to them anymore*, for as Rev 18:17 says: *in one hour so great riches is come to nought!* And, if they don't wholeheartedly repent by the end of the Millennium (and show, by their works, that they are not incorrigible criminals) they'll be *totally blotted out of existence* in the lake of fire (Rev 20:10-15). So no, the wicked won't get away with anything. Just because you see them growing in wealth and spreading their power 'like a green bay tree' (Ps 37:35), doesn't mean it's always going to be that way – it won't. The wicked won't always be powerful and, thankfully, they won't always exist either. At the end of the Millennium, all incorrigible criminals (rebels, wicked ones) will be totally blotted out of existence in the lake of fire, just as the fat of lamb goes up in smoke and consumes away into nothing (Ps 37:20).

Psalm 49

17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

Yes, it's true. The wicked cannot take any of their riches with them when they die. Just as 1 Tim 6:7 and Eccl 5:15 tells us too. And, this Psalm also points out that their 'glory' they had in the flesh (from having lots of money and prestige) won't follow after them because, in the heavenly dimension, they'll be put in 'hell' and consumed by great shame and disgrace. As 2 Cor 5:10 tells us: *we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*. Rev 14:13 also tells us that: *Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord [be living in Jesus] from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and **their works do follow them***. So, the only 'thing' we can truly 'take with us' into that heavenly dimension (where everyone goes after they die, whether they are 'good' or 'bad') is our works... no matter if they are 'good' or 'bad'! Therefore nothing (not money, power, lust, pride – *not anything*) should be more important to us than loving *and* obeying our Heavenly Father because, He's the one that decides what happen with our soul and spirit, *because* He is the Creator of our body, soul and spirit (Ezek 18:4).

Psalm 49

18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.

This is still speaking of a fool who trusts in his riches instead of our Heavenly Father. And we see that 'blessing' himself – either by hording his riches and not helping anyone else and/or by praising himself – he does not truly gain by it. Even though others praise him because he's rich, it's all truly shallow. As Prov 14:20 says, *a rich man has many friends* but that's only because *they want some of his wealth*. As the young man in the parable of the prodigal son points out, friends who like you for your money don't stay around long after your money has run out (Lk 15:11-32). And, as the great Psalms 37 told us...

16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

Ps 37:16-17

Even when you've only got 'a little', in terms of worldly wealth, that's still *much* better than all the riches the wicked people have from ill-gotten gain. Because, when you're pleasing to our Heavenly Father, He will help you through all things and give you peace of mind; which is something the wicked ones can *never* have (Isa 48:22, 57:21). But those who are wicked, He fights against. As Ps 145:20 also says: *The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.* There is therefore much wisdom in the Proverbs when they say that: *there is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches* (Prov 13:7). A person can have all the wealth and riches the world can offer but their soul can be terribly poor because they lack the *truth* that gives life and strength to our inner man; and truly, it gives us purpose to life too. As Solomon himself found - out after he had gotten more wealth, power, prestige, and women, than any other man has ever had - he found it all very shallow and empty, which is why he called it 'vanity' (Ecc 2:1-11). That's because Solomon realized (as the Psalmist of this Ps 49 did too) that we're all going to die someday and we can't take it with us. As vs 19 says in this Psalm 49, we'll all die just like our forefathers and our flesh will never see the 'light of day' again once it's in the ground.

And, even if we do work long and hard our whole life to *rightfully* gain riches (as Solomon did) it is *still* very shallow if we don't have our heart right with God. And also, if we don't help anyone else in life. As Paul advised those who are rich in 1 Tim 6, they should not let their wealth make them proud and they should trust in the Living God instead of their riches. And, they should also do good by being ready to help those who are *truly* in need. Further, they should also be rich in good works, *laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life* (1 Tim 6:17-19). So, if you are wealthy, your life will only truly be fulfilling (with peace of mind) if you learn to use your wealth for good instead of simply fulfilling your carnal lusts. Therefore, all the things that most people lust after: wealth, power, fame, prestige, etc. are all quite shallow. These things can't bring us true happiness, peace of mind or joy to our heart. The only 'thing' that can fill that void in your soul is the Holy Spirit. And if you don't seek the Lord (YHVH) with all your heart, mind, soul and strength (Deut 6:5, Mk 12:30) you'll never receive His Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ said IF we love Him then we should obey Him. And *then* (and only then) He'll send us the 'Comforter', which is His Holy Spirit (John 14:14-18). And that is what makes life worth living! Paul explained this rather well too...

*6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that **henceforth we should not serve sin**.*

*7 For **he that is dead is freed from sin**.*

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

*10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: **but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God**.*

*11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, **but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord**.*

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

*13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: **but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.***

Rom 6:6-13

So, whether we are rich or poor, we should still ‘yield’ ourselves unto God and allow Him to use us however He wants to. That is truly what gives us purpose in life and fills us with such peace and comfort that, even in hard times, we can still be quite happy and content (Phil 4:11). As Paul also wrote...

*5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and **be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.** [Deut 4:29-31]*

*6 So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.***

Heb 13:5-6

We who love and serve Jesus Christ don’t have to fear what anyone can do to us. Even those with great wealth and power are still subject to the Living God (Rom 13:1, Acts 12:23). And when we serve Jesus Christ, we are truly serving the King of kings and Lord of lords. And He does not take kindly to having His servants ill-treated. As the Lord said in Zech 2:8: *he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye*. Do you like your eye being poked? No? Well, neither does our Heavenly Father. Thus, even though we will be persecuted for serving Him in life – as Jesus forwarded in Lk 21:12, John 15:20 and Mth 5:10-12 – you can rest assured that our Heavenly Father sees it and will ‘pay back’ those who harm His servants. But the ‘when’ and the ‘how’ that is done are totally up to Him. We must simply continue to serve Him despite the challenges, trials and temptations that come (1 Pt 2:23). As Ps 84:10 says, *it’s better to be a doorkeeper in the house of God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness!*

Psalms 49

20 Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

And now the Psalmist really ‘hits the nail home’ with his parable. He’s been giving us quite a good teaching about the vanity of living our flesh life for carnal (sinful) pleasures and he now points out that, a man (#120 mankind in general) that has honor (#3366, wealth, dignity) but no understanding (i.e. truth) is like (and no better than) a ‘beast’ (a dumb animal, #929) that perishes (dies in the flesh). In other words, while our Heavenly Father created us with the *ability* to think on a *much* higher level than mere animals, most people don’t use the reasoning power He’s given us. Instead, they prefer to think with their carnal mind (like animals have) and that makes them truly no better than a dumb animal, who cannot tell right from wrong. Animals can be really mean to each other; chasing off the weak and sick ones from the pack and even having a rather cruel ‘pecking order’ sometimes. Some of them can even eat each other. And those who think with only their ‘carnal mind’ are no better. People also ‘eat each other’ – both literally and

spiritually. People often ‘consume’ each other with gossip and slander and will ‘pick on’ those who are weaker, not giving a crap about anyone else, just as animals often are. And *that* is what we must change *if* we want to live with our Heavenly Father *forever*. The Lord (YHVH) has promised us a wonderful life in eternity. *But*, before we can be given a body that will never perish, *we must change our inward man to reflect the righteous and loving character of our Heavenly Father*. Our Heavenly Father is simply not going to put up with rebels forever. Those who don’t want to love each other (and Him) and refuse to get along, simply won’t be allowed to live past the Millennium. And, if you want to be a part of Jesus Christ’s eternal government (who will be ruling the world, *forever*) you *must* make that internal transformation *now* – *before* the Millennium. Only those who **do** put on the ‘new man’ (patterned after Jesus Christ) will be allowed to rule with Jesus Christ forever because Jesus’ government will be un-corruptible. Thus, if we want to be a part of it, we must work to put off our spiritual corruption and learn to be righteous like He is, the best we possibly can (from the heart, not being fake). As Paul said: *for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality* (1 Cor 15:53). There’s simply no chance to govern with Jesus Christ after missing the first resurrection, even though there is still a chance to live forever if you accept Jesus Christ and prove, by your works (Rev 14), that you’re not an incorrigible rebel (Rev 20). But, to put on the ‘new man’ also means we must put off our ‘old man’, which (again) is the carnal mind (Rom 8:5-8). So, we’ve got to stop acting like animals and learn to love our Heavenly Father, *and* each other - otherwise we truly are no better than a ‘dumb animal’! (No offence to animals here; God made them that way but it’s a shame for us to be carnally minded).

So, this beautiful Psalm set forth a wise parable that points out the undeniable difference between God’s Word and His promises in it (which are *not* perishable) verses things of this world, which *are* perishable. That’s why 1 John 2:15 says we shouldn’t love the world (or the things in it) because *it won’t last forever*, but God’s Word *does* last forever, as will those who love our Heavenly Father. Peter also tells us, in 1 Peter 4:2, that we shouldn’t live our life in the flesh to fulfil our lusts but to live for the Will of God. And the Psalmist spoke this ‘parable’ to everyone in the ‘world’, which means life as a ‘fleeting moment’ – he wanted to speak to all people about how temporary this flesh life is because we need to think deeper than fleshly things, because there’s *so much more* to life than living for pleasures in life. As Rev 14:13 says, your righteous acts (works) are all you can take with you when you die... OR you can take your sins and go to ‘hell’! What’s your spiritual life really worth? (Matt 16:26-27) Life is a fleeting moment compared to eternity...

*1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

*2 And **be not conformed** [#4964, to fashion alike, i.e. conform to the same pattern] **to this world:** but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 *For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:*
5 ***So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.***
6 *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy **according to the proportion of faith**;*
7 *Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;*
8 *Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity [#572 sincerity]; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*
9 *Let love be without dissimulation [#505 hypocrisy]. **Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.***
10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*
11 *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; **serving the Lord**;*
12 ***Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;***
Rom 12:1-12

AMEN.