

THE WORLD OR HEAVEN, WHICH DO YOU WANT?

Matthew 16:26

Introduction: What would you do if you had an unlimited bank account? Where would you go? What would you buy? Ever see a beautiful mansion and wish you were living there? What about having your own private jet? Jesus talked about such thoughts when He said, "*...what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?*"

I. WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO "GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD?"

1. Just suppose:
 - one could have everything he/she saw, heard, felt, smelled.
 - one could have world recognition, honor, glory and praise.
 - one could have unlimited wealth.
 - one could have no end to treasures, pleasures, recognition or things imagined.
2. Just suppose one could have absolutely everything he/she wanted for all his/her life **but** it would cost that person his/her soul.

II. WHAT EXACTLY IS "LOSING ONE'S SOUL?"

1. One's soul is that part of a person that is non-physical, the spiritual, immortal, consciousness.
2. There would be no relationship with God whatsoever, called an "unsaved" one.
 - None of God's love, peace favor, it would be total separation from God forever with no hope of ever changing things.
3. It is a fact that every person's life will come to an end.
 - The **saved** look to all that God has promised them: eternal life, heaven, new bodies, etc.
 - The **unsaved** see nothing but horror, no joy, no peace, no hope.
 - The **saved** are escorted immediately upon death to a place God has been preparing for them in Heaven.
 - The **unsaved** are sent immediately upon death to a place that has been prepared for Satan and all the fallen angels, a place of darkness and torment.
 - The **saved** hear, "*...welcome, thou good and faithful servant...welcome, come ye blessed of my Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you...*"
 - The **unsaved** hear, "*...depart, ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...I never knew you...*"
4. To lose one's soul is to be damned to an eternity of darkness, torment and separation from God.

III. WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE TO LOSE THEIR SOUL?

1. God does not force one to make either choice. Every person is free to choose to go his/her own way in life and doing so also chooses his/her eternal destination.

- Why do some choose to lose their soul for what the world might offer?
2. Some say that a life of "religion" is a life of misery: having to "love" God, or one's neighbor.
 - It is a life ruled by "love" and who wants that?
 - Is such a life of love a misery? To love God, to love those who have a need, to live a life doing good and helping others?
 3. Others say that a life of "religion" is an unhappy life: it's a life like a slave, one cannot do this or that, you have to do this and that, there's no freedom whatsoever, it's a life bound by a lot of rules.
 - Is life without "religion" really a happier life?
 - There's no blessings from God, no peace of mind, no assurance of anything, no permanent happiness, no lasting anything.
 4. What can the world give that can bring lasting happiness?
 - What pleasure? What wealth? What honor? What possession?
 5. What can the world give at death?
 - Can the world extend life? Can another day or week be added to one's life?
 - What has one gained even living to be 100, having everything the world can offer but at death everything is lost, including one's soul?
 6. Which would be better: to be happy for 100 years with all the world's goods and then spend an eternity in torment, or live an average life span without all the world's goods and then upon death be happy for all eternity in Heaven?

CONCLUSION:

1. Simple logic says there should be no question, yet the world is full of people living only for today with no thought or care about eternity, just for what the world offers.
2. The way of life chosen by each person is also the choice of destination for eternity.
3. Which way of life have you chosen? To get all you can from the world now and think about eternity later? **OR** To live God's way of life and know for certain about eternity now?
4. Later is not the time to be deciding, now, today is the time. The world cannot help when one's life comes to an end and nobody knows what his/her life will come to an end.
5. *"...Choose ye this day whom ye shall serve...."* God says you can't have both.