



# Church of Christ

September 17, 2000

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Heart to Heart...

For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matt. 16:26) Have you ever thought about that verse in detail? Have you applied to it your lifestyle?

What if you gain everything you always wanted, did everything you want to do and go anywhere you want to go? What if you won the lottery worth millions? It excites some and many would love to have money like that at their disposals. People strive for things and externals while the soul is left unattended. If our soul feeds off the physical side, the spiritual side of us dies. How much do you really value your soul?

Your soul makes choices. And He said to them, Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions. (Luke 12:15) Your life does not consist of possessions! It may be what you long for and live for but your life consists of your soul. If you will continue and read Luke 12:16-21, Jesus describes what is most important. But God said to him, You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared? (Luke 12:20) God requires the soul! He calls the soul to an eternal destiny. The soul of the man went for possessions and he exchanged it for his life. Eternity was now his. God will require our souls at His bidding. You are not in control of your stay on earth. Will our soul be required today? Tonight? Tomorrow?

Jesus came to save our souls. He saw it as the most important thing in this world. When He became man, He followed God with a whole heart knowing His soul would be required of Him. Nothing kept Him away from the will of God. When Peter tried to stop Him from heading to His death on a cross, Peter said, God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You. (Matt. 16:22) Jesus responded, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's. (Matt. 16:23) When other things get in the way of God's purpose, it will destroy the soul and Jesus knew it! He knew that man's soul was in need and that it had an eternal resting place. He knew He would give His all just to save the soul, the part of man that lives, thinks and feels.

What are you giving up for your soul? Passing pleasures? Work? Are we busy with things in life that we ignore feeding our souls and caring for it? What if you gain it all in this life and when your soul is required, it's lost eternally? People get excited over trips, vacations and pleasures. We sacrifice for ball games things that bring us pleasure. When it comes to spiritual things, enthusiasm dwindles and the diligence to seek is waning. What does that say about our souls? Do we really place the value on our soul that God does? If your soul is required today, would it be a time of rejoicing or fear? Is it well with your soul? We all face the question and the answer we give will determine everything for eternity. Think about it!!!

Brent