

THE COST IS NOT TOO HIGH

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Based upon the conduct of some, it just may be that some think the price is too high. It seems to be more than some who espouse to love the Lord are willing to pay. But, is it really too much to expect?

What is probably the most well known verse in the entire Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Later, the apostle Paul wrote of that sacrifice saying, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:7-8). In his parallel of Christ and the church to a husband and a wife, Paul said, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). Great love for man was exhibited by both the Father and the Son in the death of Christ for the sins of man.

During the life of faithful Abraham, God told him, "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of" (Gen. 22:2). Since Abraham was the man he was, he took his son and went to obey God's will. Now, if any think the cost in the amount of "keep my commandments" is too high, I guess you are really glad one of those commandments is not to take your son or your daughter, kill them and offer them as a burnt offering upon an altar. In fact, the word of God tells us specifically that the cost of loving the Lord is not a grievous burden to be borne. John wrote, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

There are both positive and negative commands of the Lord that we must keep. In other words there are things we are commanded to "not do" and commands of things we are "to do". Those "not to do" commands are generally things that anyone would recognize to be the right thing to do anyway, even without them being a command. Lying, cheating, stealing, committing fornication and such will only end badly. Worshipping God, being a good neighbor, teaching others and such can certainly not be considered too grievous a task.

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I DIDN'T DO NOTHING

In one of the old Crocodile Dundee movies, there was a scene in which Crocodile Dundee was trying to get a gang leader to use his gang to assist him in freeing his girlfriend who was being held captive. He asked the man, "What did you do last night". The thug said in a somewhat smug and defensive manner, "We didn't do nothing". Crocodile Dundee then asked him, "what did you do the night before?" and again the answer was, "We didn't do nothing". He then told the gang leader, well if you help me, then tomorrow when someone asks you what you did last night, you're be able to tell them you helped rescue a woman who was being held prisoner. The gang leader thought they were in the clear because they didn't do anything that was wrong. This mindset plagues the church today.

Many who have obeyed the gospel of Christ, had their sins washed away by the blood of the Lamb, having been added to the body of Christ along with all of the saved will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and having heard the Lord say, "depart from me ye that work iniquity" will try to excuse themselves by saying, "Lord, I didn't do nothing". They may even be one hundred percent correct in that (though not likely), yet if they did nothing, they failed to obey the Lord. Becoming a child of God is not the end, but the beginning. One is resurrected to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:34). One is born again (John 3:3). One is a new creature (II Cor. 5:17). In all of these figures that portray the conversion of an alien sinner to a child of God, the clear conclusion is that one must then "do something", not nothing.

It is true that "doing something" is of no value if the something one is doing is not in accordance with what God has commanded. Jesus said, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:22-23). But, still one must be doing something. It has often been said that there is no place in the kingdom of God for a lazy servant. The Lord called the one talent man who did nothing with what God gave him, a "wicked and slothful servant" (Matt. 25:26) and then said, "cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness"(Matt. 25:30). "I didn't do nothing" will not be a good excuse at judgment.

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