

Salvation's High Cost

By
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We often value objects based on their cost. If the price of a particular item is high, we value it much more than we value an object with a lower price tag. Have you ever found something you really wanted to purchase, but when you looked at the price tag you decided it was far too expensive? Most of us have had that kind of experience more than once. There may be many things we like but just cannot afford. The price makes the difference.

In a sense this is also true of turning from sin in our lives. The more we understand the cost of sin, the more we desire to turn away from it. Discovering the eternal cost of our salvation can make a dramatic difference in our personal lives.

1 How did God attempt to impress upon Adam and Eve the cost of their sin? Read Genesis 3:20-24.

Where did these “tunics of skin” come from? It is difficult to imagine the pain that must have pierced Adam’s heart like a knife when he was commanded by God to slay the first sacrifice as a consequence for his sin. Adam immediately began to sense the terrible price of sin. As our first parents left their Eden home with the memory of a slain sacrifice indelibly stamped upon their minds, they quickly realized that the cost of their sin was incredibly high.

2 Read Exodus 25:8. What plan did God institute in the Old Testament to keep the price of sin uppermost in Israel’s mind?

God designed the sanctuary system for two basic reasons: First, the death of sacrificial animals in the sanctuary reveals the horrible cost of sin. Second, the way of salvation is revealed through the sacrifice of those animals and the ministry of the priest in the sanctuary.

3 What service specifically kept the cost of sin before the Israelites? Read Leviticus 1:2-6, 10-13.

Sin was not cheap for the Israelites. There was a cost to breaking God’s law—financially, emotionally, and spiritually. The price of sin was the sacrifice of an animal, for “without shedding of blood there is no remission” of sin (Heb. 9:22). It was heaven’s plan to keep the cost of sin constantly before the Israelites. In heaven’s divine plan the sacrifice of Christ was eternally costly to heaven. God’s grace is always free, but it is never cheap. Salvation is a gift, but it cost heaven the highest price imaginable.

4 How did the apostle John apply this symbolism to Jesus? Read John 1:29.

5 Read 1 Peter 1:18, 19. What did Peter say is the cost of our salvation?

The apostle Peter clearly reveals that the cost of our salvation is far beyond human comprehension. We should never think that because Christ offers salvation so freely that it cost heaven little. Our understanding of the immense cost of sin leads us to turn away from it.

6 Why does understanding the sacrifice of Christ on the cross change us? Read Zechariah 12:10.

When we understand that it was our sins that led Jesus to the cross, when we faintly comprehend the price Jesus paid for our redemption by looking on Him whom we have “pierced,” we too will mourn for our part in bringing pain to His heart.

7 Read Hebrews 6:4-6. What does our persistent rebellion do to Jesus?

The understanding that our sins wound Christ and cause Him pain leads us to surrender anything that is contrary to His will. We no longer desire to break the heart of the One who loves us so much. His love for us, revealed in His sacrifice on the cross, breaks our hearts and leads us to total commitment to Him.

8 When we accept Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf, what does He do for us? What does He do in us? Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

Through Christ’s grace we are saved, and through His grace we are changed. Grace changes us; His love transforms us. The same Christ who redeems us works in us through His Holy Spirit to make us like Himself. Understanding the high cost of our salvation, we humbly accept the salvation He so freely offers. This is the incredibly “good news” of the gospel. ■