

What Does My Salvation Cost Me?

Introduction

- I believe that God has something very **special in store** for each and everyone of you this fall!
- **I love the youth ministry** because it's where students begin to take **ownership** of their faith and it truly becomes their own.
- I believe in a few months you are not going to even **recognize** the person you used to be if you decide your going to take your faith seriously
 - I promise you if you put **God first** and your relationship with him you will **never be the same!**
- Tonight we are in week 4 of a **sermon series**.
 - **Am I Really Saved?**

Background

- **Paul is in prison** while he is writing to the church in Ephesus.
- Even though they have **some problems**, the **Church in Ephesus** was **pretty strong** and led by an **all-star lineup** of leaders and Pastors throughout its history.
 - Pricilla and Aquila, Apollos, Paul, Timothy, and John
- Paul is **encouraging** and **applauding them**, but there is **one idea** throughout all of Ephesians that Paul continues to bring up.
 - **Salvation is a free gift from God**, and not something that can be earned through good **behavior, deed**, or human **effort**.

Verses (Overarching)

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a **gift** from God. **9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Action step / main point-

- Today I want to talk to you about this question of **What Does My Salvation Cost Me?**

Title- Counting the Cost

Pray

Introduction

- **Salvation** is the **act of being saved!**
- **Week 1:** How to be Saved from Separation!
- **Week 2:** Faith is Formed by Spiritual Working Out!
- **Week 3:** Where do I go If Jesus is my Savior? Paradise
- **Tonight!** Our last Week in “Am I Really Saved?” We are talking about...
 - **What does my Salvation Cost Me?**

Transition-

- This brings me to my **first point.**

Point 1- Salvation is Free

Verse

Ephesians 2:8 (NLT) (ABOVE)

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a **gift** from God

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift** of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Content

- **These verses clearly teach** us that the gift of **salvation is FREE** to us **but someone** had to **pay the price** for our sins.
 - **Salvation** did not just become **available magically.**
 - As **Romans 6:23 teaches** us **salvation / eternal life** is, “through Christ Jesus our Lord.” and his sacrifice on the cross.

Verse

Colossians 1:14 (NLT)

14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

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- **He purchased our freedom** from our sins **by his sacrifice** on the cross.

- **Jesus** Christ, the **perfect sacrifice**, was the **only adequate** sacrifice that could **give us freedom** from our sins.
- The **salvation and freedom** that we have been given is **freely given** to us **through Jesus** Christ because he **freely gave up his life** on the cross for us.
- So to make it clear, it is **free for us** but it **cost Jesus everything!**
- **I want you to picture it like this**
 - Suppose you want to **impress your girlfriend** or boyfriend and **show them** how much you **love** them by getting them a super nice **gift**.
 - **1st-** You would have to **go to the store** and do some **shopping** around and **find a gift** and **buy it**.
 - The **nicer the gift** the more it would **cost you!**
 - For your **girlfriend** or boyfriend the **gift is free**.
 - BUT it **wasn't free for you!** It **cost you** a whole lot!
- The **same is true** with the **free gift of salvation**. To us, the ones receiving that gift of **salvation it's totally free**.
 - But it **cost God the life of his Son**, Jesus Christ.

Verse

John 3:16 (NIV)

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- **God sent** his one and **only son** to **pay the full price**, not partial, the full price with his blood so that we can have the **free gift of salvation**.
- **Just like any other gift** you have **received at Christmas**, on your birthday, or whenever it might be, **God's gift of salvation does not become ours until we accept it**.
- Just like **you could deny a gift** from your friend you can **also deny** God's gift of salvation.
- It is the **greatest exchange!** **You bring you**, your **sin**, your **brokenness**, your **heart break**, your **anger**, your **bitterness**, **all of who you are to God** and give it to Him... **in exchange** He gives you the **greatest gift** you could

ever receive. **The gift of salvation!** The gift of **eternal life!** The gift of **spending eternity** with Jesus in Paradise!

Application

- What does this **mean for you today?**
 - You **don't have to work** for your salvation.
 - God **doesn't love you more** because you do more things for him.
 - You **don't have to be perfect**
 - Jesus is the only one that has ever been perfect.
 - You **haven't gone too far** or done something too bad to not receive the gift of salvation.
 - God does not look at your sins and say, "That's too bad!"
 - God sees your sins but doesn't see you as your sin.
 - All you need to do is **receive the gift of salvation and believe!**

Transition

- This brings me to my **second point.**
 - **Point 1: Salvation is FREE**

Point 2- Following Jesus Cost You Everything

Verse

Luke 9:23-25

23 Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. **24** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. **25** And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?"

Content

- **I will be the first** to tell you that **Salvation is free**, but the cost of **following Jesus isn't.**
- If you **want to follow Jesus** or be a **disciple of Jesus** (disciplined follower), you must be **willing to make some sacrifices.**

- The **question** I often ask myself is, **if Jesus gave up everything for me, what am I willing to give up for him?**
 - Am I willing to give up my **pride?**
 - Am I willing to give up what everyone else **thinks about me?**
 - Am I willing to give up my **own plans?**
 - Am I willing to give up those **hidden struggles and sins** that bring me pleasure?
 - Am I willing to give up **those friends?**
 - **What are you willing to give up to follow Jesus?**

- **Jesus made it very clear** in the **verses we read earlier** in His very words he told us that, **“you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.”**
- **I think many Christians today** try to **live this double life** because they aren't willing to lay down their own way.
 - **I know this is true** because this is **my story.**
 - Trying to **live for God** but not willing to **give up my ways** and the ways of the world.
 - Trying to **please God** but also **please myself** with the ways of the world.
 - I **thought to myself** for the longest time that the life **my friends** were living looked like the **most fun**, the grass always seemed to be greener on the other side, I felt like I was **missing out on goodtime.**
 - They would be **posting** on their snap and instagram.
 - **Come to find out** that living for the world only leaves you more **empty** and **searching for more** and more to fulfill your desires!

- This is **exactly what Jesus was talking** about in the verse we read earlier!
 - **Luke 9:25**- “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?”
- **We can gain the whole world but for what?**
 - **Nothing compares to the joy** of **giving up your own way** to live for Christ.
 - Nothing compares to the **joy of salvation.**

- You can spend your whole life trying to live for the world and gain more and more and more but what's it worth? Nothing compared to the reward of knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
- When we take a step back and look at it the so-called cost or so-called losses are nothing compared to what we gain from having Jesus, he is the greatest reward.
- So even if you are in 6th grade or 8th grade, we all must count the cost of being a follower of Jesus. What are you willing to lay down so you can follow Jesus?
- Love what Paul says!
 - **Philippians 3:8**- "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ"
 - Followers of Jesus will be rewarded 1000x fold for the life they lived!

Prayer

- Can I pray for you?

Conclusion

- Suppose you learned that you had been given an all-expense-paid condo on a beach in Tahiti, complete with airfare, a car, food, and a maid. You could brag about your new lifestyle, plan for it, and dream about it. But until you pack up and leave your current home, the new life is never really yours. You cannot live in Tahiti and your current hometown at the same time. Many people approach Christianity the same way. They love the idea of eternal life, escaping hell, and having Jesus at their beck and call. But they are not willing to leave the life they now live. Their desires, lifestyle, and sinful habits are too precious to them. Their lives may exhibit a token change—starting to attend church or giving up a major sin—but they want to retain ownership of everything else. Jesus is speaking in Luke 14 to those with that mindset.