## **Today's Sermons**

Morning: Bible Believers? Afternoon: Song Service

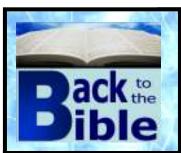
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4	FOR THE RECOR	п	
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necessary for salvation, which is controversial to those in denominations (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21, etc.). They need to hear that there is only one church purchased by and authorized by Christ, which is also very controversial (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:4; 5:23). They need to know about the New Testament pattern for worship, that God hates sins like homosexuality and abortion, and many other Truths that will very likely upset them because of their current beliefs or lifestyles.

Teaching people such things is much more difficult than simply living a moral lifestyle. Most people will not get upset with you for living a good moral life, but many will get upset when they realize that what you are teaching implies that their beliefs and practices are wrong. This controversy and threat to personal relationships is a risk Christians must be willing to take, even if it leads to their deaths! (Matthew 10:32-39; Mark 8:38; John 8:40; Revelation 2:10). However, it seems many have convinced themselves that this is not a part of their responsibility as Christians (cf. Ezekiel 33:8; Colossians 1:28).

Brothers and sisters, the Lord's church needs to come to life and be evangelistic! Simply living morally and being kind to others is not being evangelistic. The word "evangelism" has the word "angel" in the middle of it. An angel is a messenger, and if children of God are not spreading the Message of God's Word, they are not evANGELizing! Christians must both live pure lives and teach people how to be faithful Christians. May we never consider ourselves faithful by simply living in moral (or even doctrinal) purity. We must teach the lost the Truth that will make them free!



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### Minister:

Tim Canup tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

### **Times of Services:**

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am AM Worship:...11:00am PM Worship:...6:00pm 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:......7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WKSK
93.5 FM

We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!

# ARE YOU SELLING YOUR SOUL ON THE INSTALLEMT PLAN?

by Franklin Camp

"And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD" (1 King 21:20). While the title of this article sounds repulsive, it is a grave possibility. When we first think of the question, we feel that no one would be foolish enough to sell his soul. If someone had asked Ahab early in life if he would sell his soul, he, no doubt, would have said no. But Elijah told him that he had sold his soul. We may do as Ahab did.

### **DOWN PAYMENT — MARRIAGE**

Ahab took out the first mortgage on his soul when he married. "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up" (1 Kin. 21:25). "And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him" (1 Kings 16:31). These verses tell the story of how he mortgaged his soul when he married Jezebel.

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### SECOND PAYMENT — COMPROMISE

The first down payment on his mortgage of his soul after he married was the compromise of his religion. The same verse that tells of his marriage, tells us that he served and worshipped Baal. No, he did not pretend to completely reject God, he tried to please his wife by recognizing Baal along with God, but Ahab could not worship both. He was in the position now of having to choose between his wife and his God. This is a lesson we need to write deep into the hearts of our young people. While it is not always true that marrying one that is not a Christian leads to the selling of the soul, it happens too many times. I can point out many instances where husbands and wives are making the second installment on their mortgages by trying to compromise essential truths of Christianity. Let Ahab speak from the past and warn against the danger of mortgaging your soul in marrying.

### THIRD PAYMENT

Ahab's next installment in selling his soul was a piece of land. "And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread" (1 Kings 21:2-4). It is in reference to this incident that the prophet reminds Ahab that he had sold his soul.

Ahab was not the last one to sell his soul for material things. Judas sold his soul for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 27:3). The rich, young ruler sold his soul for his possessions (Mark 10:17-22). Ananias and Sapphira sold their souls for money also (Acts 5:1-5). The rich man in Luke 12 sold his soul for his crops and more and bigger barns. The rich man in Luke 16 sold his soul for high living while he ignored a hungry man at his gate.

These are but a few of the examples in the Bible of people selling their souls for land, houses and money. Multitudes today are doing the same thing. There are those that know what they ought to do to become a Christian, but refuse to do so because it would cost them money. Many in the church are neglecting their souls because of trying to maintain a standard of living that requires all of their time. Some in the church can barely spare the Lord an hour on Sunday morning because of the demands of material standards of this age. Our lives are so full of things involved in gaining a living that we have no time to do personal work, or visit the sick, or seek out and help those that are in need. We are like the excuse-makers in the day of Christ; we have no time for the Lord's invitation to enjoy spiritual things because we have oxen or lands to see about.

### A "SERMON SEEN" IS NOT A SERMON HEARD

by Jason Hilburn

Perhaps you have heard someone say, "I would rather see a sermon than hear one any day!" While the intention behind the statement may be good, one must be careful that he does not over-emphasize morality while minimizing the power of God's Word. Yes, God condemns hypocrisy and commands His children to do good works and live holy lives (Matthew 7:1-5, 21; Romans 2:1, 21-23; 12:1, 2; Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16). However, Christ did not simply command His disciples to go forth and live good moral lives before the lost to save them—He commanded them to go preach the Gospel and baptize people! (Mark 16:15, 16). Romans 1:16 does NOT say, "For I am not ashamed of a good moral life, because it is the power of God unto salvation..." It seems that some members of the Lord's church have convinced themselves that as long as they refrain from immorality and are kind to others, they have done their duty to God.

The truth is that any religious person (or even an atheist) can generally live a moral lifestyle; therefore, simply doing this does not really set us apart from the lost (cf. John 17:17). The Lord's church has the most precious Message man has ever heard, but if we are not spreading that unique Message, we have failed! (Matthew 13:44-46). Living a morally pure lifestyle may get someone's attention in a positive way, but that alone is not enough. They will never be converted from lost to saved without being exposed to the rightly divided Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15-18; cf. Romans 6:17, 18; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:22).

Perhaps some Christians who live morally are not as evangelistic as they should be, because they know how controversial the Truth is. Among other things, the lost need to hear that the divine Son of God really did die on the cross for all people, and that He was raised from the dead (Hebrews 2:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4). That is controversial to people like atheists, Jews, and Muslims. The lost need to hear that baptism really is

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- June 14 Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Service (Song Service)
- July 5 Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- July 12 Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Service (Song Service)
- ➤ July 29-Aug 2 Spring/Lansing Barn Meeting with Daniel Koen
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Jim Winters