

THE COST OF GODLINESS

“...Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” 1 Tim 4:7-8

I. Introduction

Luke 14:26-35

II. The cost of true Godliness

A. The nature of the Kingdom of God

Mk 4:1-9; 14-20

B. We are **not** discussing “the cost” to save a person’s soul

1 Cor 6:20

1 Pet 1:18-19

1. “What must a man be willing to forsake in order to be godly?”

2. Little cost in many a man’s Christianity

“If this is saving Christianity, and will take us to heaven when we die, we must alter the description of the way of life, and write, ‘Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to heaven!’”

- J.C. Ryle, Holiness, p. 67

What did Jesus say?

Mt 7:13-14

C. What does the Bible say is the cost?

1. It will cost us our _____.

Mt 5:3

2. It will cost us our _____.

Prov 28:13

Q. What are the three great enemies that we war against?

_____, _____, _____

Eph. 4:22-24

Col 3:8-10

Ez 18:31

Dan 4:27
Is 1:16-17

Q. Why is it so difficult to leave off sinning?

Rom 7:14-25

A.W. Tozer "Five vows for spiritual power"

- Never defend yourself
- Never take any of the glory
- Never pass anything on
- Never own anything
- **Always deal thoroughly with sin**

Surely a person would be willing to separate from whatever stands between him and heaven

Mt 5:29-30

3. It will cost us our _____.

a. It requires taking pains and being diligent.

1 Tim 4:12-16

2 Pet 1:10

b. Be diligent to run the race.

Heb 12:1

c. Be diligent in **prayer** and **fasting**, and in **watchings**.

Watchings -- 2 Cor 6:2-5, Mark 14:37

d. Be diligent in **Sabbath rest**

4. It will cost us _____.

Jn 15:18-20

Mt 5:10

Js 4:4

III. The importance of counting the cost

A. Covenant children could be in danger.

e.g. Myriads of the children of Israel perished in the wilderness.

e.g. Many early disciples followed no more.

Jn 6:66

e.g. Demas loving this present world turned away and followed no more.

2 Tim 4:10

B. Profit and loss statements

Mk 8:36

Compare: The loss of the world
and
The gain of eternal life

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot

Mt 5:11-12

Compare: The persecution of erring lost people
and
The gain of a great reward in heaven

2 Cor 4:17-18

Compare: The life here and now
and
The life to come

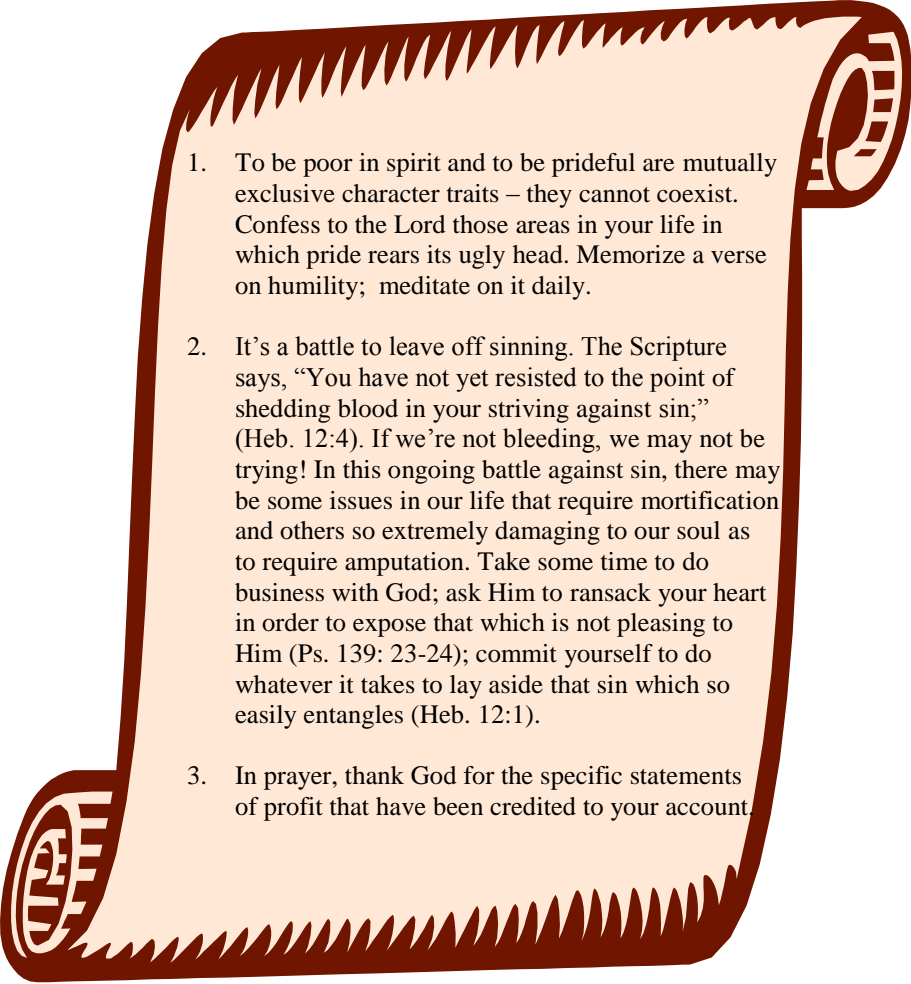
Jn 14:27; Jn 16:33

Compare: What the world offers
and
What Christ offers--that which will never cease

Lk 16:25

Compare: Troubles in this life (momentary light afflictions)
and
Troubles in the life to come (fires of eternal hell)

“A single day in hell will be worse than a whole life spent in carrying the cross.” J.C. Ryle

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1. To be poor in spirit and to be prideful are mutually exclusive character traits – they cannot coexist. Confess to the Lord those areas in your life in which pride rears its ugly head. Memorize a verse on humility; meditate on it daily.
 2. It's a battle to leave off sinning. The Scripture says, "You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;" (Heb. 12:4). If we're not bleeding, we may not be trying! In this ongoing battle against sin, there may be some issues in our life that require mortification and others so extremely damaging to our soul as to require amputation. Take some time to do business with God; ask Him to ransack your heart in order to expose that which is not pleasing to Him (Ps. 139: 23-24); commit yourself to do whatever it takes to lay aside that sin which so easily entangles (Heb. 12:1).
 3. In prayer, thank God for the specific statements of profit that have been credited to your account.