

EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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THE VALUE OF ONE'S SOUL

There are many things in our life that we place value on. Some place great value in money, cars, homes, investments, education, and career. Jesus tells us that our most prized possession is our soul. In **Matthew 16:26**, he tells us, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" God has given everyone an eternal spirit. **Ecclesiastes 12:7** states, "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it." In **Luke 12:16-21**, Jesus tells us a parable of a man who was very prosperous, expanded his business, and felt very secure in his wealthy position. In verse 20-21, Jesus says, "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." In **Matthew 6**, Jesus tells us where we need to place importance in our lives in view of our eternal nature. In verses 19-21 he says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In light of these vital teachings of Jesus, how can we begin placing proper value on our soul? First, we can begin studying God's word and learning more about him. **II Timothy 2:15** tells us to "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Jesus tell us in **Matthew 5:6**, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled." Second, we need to prioritize our life in accordance with the great value placed on our soul. In **Matthew 6:33**, Jesus tells us to, "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness". **Colossians 3:2** instructs us to, "Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth." Third, we need to prepare to meet God in judgement. **II Corinthians 5:10** states, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." If you are not a Christian, you need to become one! You need to believe the gospel, repent of your sins, confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and be baptized in order to have your sins washed away. **Mark 16:16** tells us, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." **Acts 2:38** tells us to, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." I urge you to consider the value and condition of your soul.

—Patrick White