

# NO MAN CARED FOR MY SOUL!

Psa. 142:4

## INTRODUCTION:

We want to begin by wishing you all a very happy Mother's Day! Appreciate all those honorees here today and certainly hope you're finding both satisfaction and fulfillment in the role **you've played** or are playing in the sight of God in challenging and training those, the likes of whom the Lord said, "**OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!**"

In our text this morning, DAVID, a refugee in the Cave of Engedi, was fleeing from the wrath of Saul. He uttered the words of our text **because he despaired of his life.** Psa.142:4- "*Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; **No one cares for my soul.***"

**HOW MANY people who are** within close contact of "CHRISTIANS" must feel this very way today! There are many characteristics of Christians noted in the N.T., but none are more meaningful than the fact that Christians are those who CARE! **A CHRISTIAN CARES FOR SOULS!**

## I. THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR THINGS THAT CARING FOR SOULS INVOLVES AND NECESSITATES:

- A. **First**, we must have a deep conviction of the soul's very existence! **OBVIOUSLY**, you cannot care for something that you don't even believe in!
1. It is IN OUR WALK OF FAITH by which we "look at the things which are unseen"!
  2. Man is NOT just a body which contains a soul!
  3. Man IS a LIVING SOUL! Gen.2:7- "*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*"
- B. **ALSO**, we must have an intense confidence regarding the VALUE of the SOUL! **While this is a "doctrine" thing**, it is **primarily a DEMONSTRATED VALUE** in our *attitudes* and *actions*!
1. Satan has a better realization of the soul's value than most of us are showing!
  2. He will leave no "stone unturned," no effort untried to claim you and me for himself!
  3. Jesus tries to give us a little insight as to VALUE in Matt.16:26- "*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?"* Matt.10:28- "*And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*"
- C. **Thirdly**, it is necessary to realize the deep and thorough sense of the dangers to which it is exposed!
1. SIN in our lives brings a definitive CONSEQUENCE to our souls: Rom.3:23; Ezek.18:20; Rom.6:23.
  2. Do we REALLY BELIEVE and UNDERSTAND this? That the actions in our physical life affect the eternal destiny of our souls?
- D. **Fourth**, it is vital for us to have FULL REALIZATION of the soul's potential possibilities: viz, *[Just as Luther Burbank viewed every weed as a possible flower or edible plant, we really need to understand what an asset our soul is/can be for us!]*
1. It is the means by which we can HONOR and GLORIFY God, our Creator!
  2. It is the means THROUGH and BY WHICH we can lay hold on Eternal Life, or suffer the Eternal Consequences of SIN!

## II. UPON WHOM HAS GOD LAID THIS OBLIGATION TO CARE FOR SOULS?

- A. Did God tell MOTHERS, "YOU'RE to take charge of this obligation?" --- OR, is it just a NATURAL thing for mothers to be the caring people they are?
1. A second grade teacher had taught her class rather extensively on "MAGNETS", both with explanations and demonstrations. THEN, when trying to make sure they'd learned, she asked them a test question: "*MY NAME BEGINS WITH "M", IT HAS SIX LETTERS, AND I PICK UP THINGS .... WHAT AM I CALLED?* Over half the class answered "MOTHER!"
  2. On an ancient grave in Greece, there is a tombstone with only the words: "*She was a good Mother!*"
  3. WHILE IT IS TRUE that Mothers DO care -- and not just for their own, but their sensitivity also seems to be shown to many around them -- there are TWO THINGS we need to remember:
    - a) **God hasn't made THEM any more responsible for the lost than everyone else is!**

- b) And the other thing is, ALL MOTHERS DON'T CARE! Some have a reputation completely different -- some to a **much lesser degree** of love and consideration!
- 1) It's said that a certain Jewish mother had a capacity for demeaning her children by laying on guilt. She gave a son two ties for his birthday and when he put one of them on he stood before her and proudly stated: "Look, momma, isn't it handsome?" "What's the matter," she snorted, "didn't you like the other one?"
  - 2) SO, to cut right to the question at the bottom line: **WHO DOES GOD WANT TO CARE FOR THE LOST?**
- B. Has God given this task to the world -- to care for the souls of His creation?
1. We certainly can't expect the WORLD -- who doesn't even care for GOD -- to exercise the kindness of care for the souls of God's creation!
  2. AND, even if the world wanted to manifest a real and genuine CARE FOR SOULS -- it doesn't have the necessary equipment to do so! The WORLD doesn't have the POWER nor the proper ABILITY to teach the gospel of Christ. **Rom.1:16.**
- C. THAT'S WHY God has placed this accountability on His Church!
1. Elders, in particular, watch in behalf of the souls God has placed under them in local congregations!  
THAT'S WHY: **Heb.13:7, 17-** *"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. (17) Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."*
  2. ALL MEMBERS, in general, must get past the attitude of Abel in **Gen.4:9-** *"Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?""*
- D. And the LEADERS in every family are answerable to show this loving care!
1. Consider the fourfold growth of Jesus: **Luke 2:52-** *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."*
  2. **1 Tim.5:8-** *"If any provides not for his own...".* Is "material provision" all that's expected of the parents? Are they not also to care for spiritual/ emotional/ mental needs?

### **III. CARELESSNESS IS A GREAT EVIL THAT AFFECTS SELF AND OTHERS!**

- A. To not care for the souls for those creatures made in the image of God is **CRUEL!**
1. Jesus taught that we shouldn't even neglect a dumb beast if there were a chance to get him out of the pit --- even if it were on the Sabbath day.
  2. Is not man worth more than a dumb beast?
- B. It is **UNGRATEFUL** to not care for souls!
1. Suppose OTHERS had not cared for you and me? cf. Paul in **Rom.1:14-15.**
  2. Next time you see the awful consequences of a sinner's vile life, just consider yourself: **"There, but for the grace of God and the CARE God's people showed me, GO I!"**
- C. It can even be considered to be **CRIMINAL** to not care for souls. **Ezek.33:7-8-** *"So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. (8) "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, **that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.**"*  
**IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE HANDS OF SOME CHURCH MEMBERS WILL BE DRIPPING WITH BLOOD AT THE JUDGMENT!**
- D. Did you understand that **Ezek.33:8** pointed out that carelessness on our part is **FATAL TO THE PERISHING?** And it is also disastrous to US, **even though** we may think that ALL IS WELL!
- E. For our own well-being and protection we need to be aware that there are at least TWO THINGS which undermine our caring for the souls of others:
1. **Materialism.** This, of course, is a characteristic of the world.
    - a) It's the road of least apparent cost, but in the long run it's most costly to **choose to not care for souls:** to **US** and to **THEM!**
    - b) Have WE been overly influenced by thinking too much of the world?

2. **Selfishness.** “What’s in it for me? Why expose myself to danger or trouble? If they really wanted to know they’d come to me! etc. etc.” [Illus: On Oakdale golf course w/distance markers to the green noted on sprinkler heads, one a great way off said: *“Just hit the ball!”*]

#### **IV. GOD GIVES US AN ABUNDANCE OF GOOD REASONS WHY WE SHOULD CARE FOR THE SOULS OF OTHERS!**

- A. First, it’s fulfilling the responsibility of the Great Commission.
  1. Jesus told His disciples to *“Come, learn of Me...”* then told them to *“GO...TEACH!”*
  2. We’ve been taught to do the same things the apostles did in spreading the gospel of Christ. **Matt.28:19; Phil.2:15-16-** *“that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, (16) holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”*
- B. Also, it is necessary in order for us to continue to become more Christ-like.
  1. We’ve been called to *“follow in His steps”* as we *“proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”* **1 Pet.2:9, 21.**
  2. **We certainly CAN’T BE LIKE the Savior and FAIL to CARE FOR SOULS!**
- C. It helps us to express a holy yearning from within. [If we’re like Christ, it’s only natural for us to want others to be Saved & Sanctified & Redeemed & Related to God!]
- D. It helps us to be like our forebearers: those first century Christians who showed so much love for the Lord and the Lost as they **went everywhere preaching the Truth**
- E. AND, it helps us to SAVE [SUSTAIN] THE BODY OF CHRIST [OURSELVES]! **SELF PRESERVATION!**
  1. The family that refuses to bear children will be blotted out in a generation!
  2. Most thriving cause of **REVERSIONARY APOSTACY** is **FRUITLESSNESS!** **Jno.15:1-6-** *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. (3) “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (4) “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (5) “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. (6) “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”*

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The joy of soul-winning is expressed by Paul of those whom he’d helped to turn to the Lord as, **“MY CROWN & MY JOY”!** Also, JOHN in **3 Jno.3-** **“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth!”** CARELESSNESS is a bitter foe of happiness and an unhappy man is a menace to the cause of the Lord!

ARE YOU STILL UNCONVINCED? Like begets like! We can’t sow carelessness and reap the rewards of being a CARING people! We must face the facts: **if we desire the benefits of the gospel we must meet its demands!** **SINNER FRIEND, EVEN IF YOU FEEL THAT OTHERS MAY NOT HAVE CARED FOR YOU, WON’T YOU CARE FOR YOURSELF?**