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THE SURE WORD

By Jonnie Hutchison

WHAT THE WORLD OFFERS YOU

Each of us have a choice to either include or exclude God from our lives. Jesus taught the necessity of counting the cost of following Him. He speaks of one who had plans to build a tower indicating that he would surely “count the cost” before he started building “lest after he had laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it” all who see it “mock him” (Luke 14:28-29). The point is that it does cost to follow Jesus. Jesus said, “And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:27). The question then becomes, “Am I willing to make the necessary sacrifices in my life to receive what God offers?”

To help us make an informed decision God reveals both what the world offers and what He offers. The world offers the temporary pleasures of sin while God offers the permanent joy of heaven. Yes, there is pleasure in sin. The Bible admits as much in the case of Moses who made the choice to suffer affliction with God’s people rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:24-25). The key phrase is “passing pleasures of sin.” The pleasure of sin does not last – it does not completely satisfy. While the pleasure of sin is temporary, the consequences of sin are eternal. The pleasure of sin comes at great cost. In eternity, those few moments of pleasure will have cost you everything (Matthew 25:46). God offers forgiveness of sin and eternal life in heaven.

The world offers slavery while God offers freedom. “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves to whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” (Romans 6:16-17). You have the choice to obey the devil or to obey God. The devil is the slave owner of every person who choose the world over God. But God offers freedom from the dominion, guilt and consequences of sin. “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (Romans 6:17-18).

The world offers death but God offers life. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Spiritual death is separation from God (Isa. 59:2), from an abundant life (John 10:10), from all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3) and leads to eternal separation from God in the punishment of hell (Romans 6:23). But God offers spiritual life through Jesus Christ and everlasting life in eternity.

What does the world offer you? Temporary pleasure, slavery, and death. Is what the world offers worth rejecting what God offers? He offers permanent joy, freedom and life. Dear reader, have you counted the cost?