



Counting the Cost

By: Clay Barnes

Do you count the cost before you invest your time, money, and effort into long term commitment? Perhaps one of

the great failings of man is the failure to learn the lesson that Jesus taught during his earthly sojourn. Do you remember the passage in Luke where Jesus uses the concept of counting the cost before a person undertakes a project; **cf. Luke 14: 28-32 - 28** For which of you, desiring to build a tower, doth not first sit down and count the cost, whether he have (wherewith) to complete it? 29 Lest haply, when he hath laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all that behold begin to mock him, 30 saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, as he goeth to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him that

cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and asketh conditions of peace. (ASV)

There is a great lesson in the passage referred to (previous paragraph – **Luke 14:28-32**) that many people overlook in the process of life. The greatest and perhaps most important event that is overlooked as a person lives their life is - “How do I know that I will be successful in life? How will I know whether I have selected the right person for my mate? How can I be assured that I am rearing my children correctly? How will I know whether my life will really count for anything worthwhile?” Indeed, I suspect many people ask themselves these questions as they leave childhood and began to understand the realities of living in the world. Yet, these questions and considerations of living life may be answered simply by listening to Jesus Christ in the passage cited – cf. **Luke 14:28-32**.

Whenever we leave leave childhood we ought to “count

the cost” of building a life with or without God in our lives. We will be wise to consider all of the facts that a healthy, prosperous, peaceful, and reverent life will benefit us if we commit our lives to serve the “one true God” . Some of the promises offered by God for faithful Christian living is found in the Bible, please note the following:

- 1.** Without God's instruction we cannot direct our own steps – Jer. 10:23 – **23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. (KJV)**
- 2.** Christ will help us and share our problems and our joys – Matt. 11:28-30 – **28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (KJV)**
- 3.** Jesus will mediate our prayer requests (i.e. act as our advocate to the Father) – **I Tim. 2:5-6 – 5 For**

there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (KJV)

4. Finally after a lifetime of faithful service (Rev. 2:10) Christ will welcome us into that eternal Heaven prepared for the Righteous – **Heb. 9:27-28 – 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (KJV) 1 Peter 1:4-9 – 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, yea are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be**

found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (KJV)

WILL YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE FOR GOD? IF YOU WILL YOU WILL BE ASSURED OF A BEARABLE AND ENJOYABLE LIFE HERE AND AN ETERNAL HOME WITH GOD IN THE FUTURE.