**A BURDEN FOR SOULS**

***WRITTEN BY: TOMMY ROMANS APRIL 2017***

*Oh* God, give us a Burden for lost souls! O Jesus, let us see the sinner like you see them! Did you know that the human body is made up of 65% water? If you melted all the flesh and bones down, the mineral and chemical worth would be only 2 to 4 dollars in value! But you cannot put a price on the eternal soul that lives in that body!! Jesus said that one person, just one soul was worth more than this whole world. What would it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul? What would that person give in exchange to get their soul back after they lost it? Do we really know and feel the importance and the eternal value of a precious soul?

**ARE YOU INSURED?**

A little boy looked across the supper table at his daddy while they were eating and said, “Dad, is your soul insured?” “Well, why do you ask my son?” “Well, Papaw said that you had insurance on your home and your car and that you had medical coverage for your body, but he didn’t think you had insurance on your soul! Papaw said he was afraid you were going to lose it! Dad, why don’t you go to Church with me and mommy and get insurance on your soul?”

Listen children, you have 2 eyes, 2 arms, 2 legs and 2 kidneys, and if you lose one of them you still can live because you have another, but if you lose your soul, you have lost it all – you have lost everything and can never get it back.

**CRYING OVER THE WRONG THINGS**

 O how carnal minded we humans are! We get tore up over material things wishing we had more and better, fret over money, saddened because we can’t have or attain more of this worlds goods and entertainments, we cry and our hearts break over the loss of a pet, but we don’t weep and mourn over souls perishing and leaving this world going into eternity forever lost!! We’re not saddened, not troubled over our lost mommies, daddies, brothers, sisters and precious loved ones. We look through the window and see our lost neighbors coming and going, getting in their cars and leaving home knowing they are lost and it doesn’t touch us! We brush shoulders almost every day with people, they’re right in our grasp and we fail to mention Jesus to them. We don’t testify to them about how good our

 God is. We don’t invite them to Church. We fail to warn them of the judgment of God and the hereafter where they will spend eternity! Oh God, where is our burden? It’s like the lyrics to the song: “When in the better land, before the bar we stand, how deeply grieved our souls will be, if any lost one there should cry in deep despair – you never mentioned Jesus to me: O let us spread the word wherever it may be heard, help groping souls the light to see, that yonder none may say you showed me not the way, you never mentioned Him to me: A few sweet words may guide a lost one to His side or turn their sad eyes to Calvary, so work as days go by, that yonder none may cry – you never mentioned Jesus to me. You never mentioned Him to me nor help me the light to see. You met me day by day and knew I was astray – you never mentioned Him to me!

 Years ago while driving on my way to work, as I came over the hill into Huntington, the Lord spoke to me so plainly – “if you do not have a burden for the souls of others, then you are not where you should be with me! Your soul is not right either!!” Again I say – O God, where is our burden?

**THE IMPORTANCE OF JUST ONE SOUL**

 In John’s Gospel chapter 4, the bible said that Jesus must needs go through Samaria! Why? John tells the story about a poor woman who was so rejected and despised by people that she had to come to the well in the hottest part of the day, around noon, while no one else was around to draw water. She was so sinful that no one wanted anything to do with her. She was the proverbial outcast of society. She was dirty and forsaken, but she had a precious soul that God loved and wanted to save. When she got to the well with her empty water pot, she met a man sitting there waiting on her. Why would you talk to her Jesus, she’s a Samaritan? You know the Jews don’t like the Samaritans! She ain’t no good. She’s had 5 husbands and the one she’s with now is not hers! Why even take the time? Jesus brought her sins to light so she could see her sinful condition, then offered her living water. Woman, you came here to draw natural water from this well but when you drink of it, you’ll still have a longing and will thirst again and have to keep coming back for more, but if you drink of the water that I give you, you will never thirst again because the water that I give you to drink will be a well of water springing up inside you unto everlasting life! No doubt when this poor unhappy and sinful woman looked into Jesus’ eyes, it was like looking deep into wells of living love! A compassion for her soul flowed from them. She cried out – Lord, evermore, give me this water that I’ll never thirst again!! She believed Jesus, she wanted it and she got it! She went running back to town crying – come see a man that told me all things that I ever did, is not this the Christ?

 When the disciples came back from town from buying food, they marveled that He talked with this sinful woman. They tried to get Jesus to eat, but Jesus’ answer to them was “I have meat to eat that you know not of. My meat is to do the will of God that sent me!” What was that will? It was to seek and to save that which was lost! Jesus had a God given burden for souls gone astray, to reach them and save them! Then Jesus tells them – “say not ye there are yet four months and then cometh harvest, but I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already unto harvest. Don’t you realize the fields are full of precious souls that will soon perish unless someone has a burden and reaches out and saves them?

**CHRISTS’ GREAT COMMISSION FOR SOULS**

 **Mk.16** – Jesus said – Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. (Why? Because there is a whole world full of lost souls and God said – “It is not my will that any of them should perish! Go tell them that I love them and want them saved.”)

**Mat. 22** and **Luke 14** Jesus tells us to go out quickly into the highways and hedges, into the streets and lanes of the city and compel people to come in that His house may be filled. (Go rescue them while you can, don’t linger – time is running out)

**Mat. 9** – Then saith Jesus unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest. Right now, if you could lean on Jesus’ bosom and hear His very heart beat, you would hear the inward groaning for precious souls to be saved.

Paul wrote to the Church that if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost, in whom the god of this world (satan) hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the Glorious Gospel of Christ should shine unto them (II Cor. 4). This message must go out, people must be warned, they must be invited and told the Love of Christ!

Jeremiah wept over the lost condition of his people around him and said – Arise, cry in the night in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward Him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street. (This is a shadow of our day of the drug epidemic that is going on and thousands are dying in our streets.) Jeremiah called out – the harvest is past, the summer ended and we are not saved! (Jer. 8). O that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! (Jer. 9). While people sleep, millions are plunging into eternity lost without God. The Lord cried out through Joel the prophet to the lost souls of backsliders in his day – turn ye to me with all your heart, and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning: rend your hearts. Let the priests and ministers of the Lord weep between the porch and the altar! (Souls were the very heart beat of the early Church.)We’ll never know the deep waters our Saviour waded through to reach the lost lambs and sheep who had gone astray. That deep Love cost Him His very Blood to rescue wandering souls going into the pit. Paul said – I pray exceedingly night and day, I must bear witness of Christ before kings, the rich and the poor, to Jews and Gentiles – to deliver them from the power of satan to God and bring them out of darkness into the marvelous light!

Now dear reader is the time to reach, it’s time to preach and warn. Your mark is upon souls – the ones you are to touch and win. They’re waiting on you. God is going to bring them within your reach! Don’t miss your opportunity. The souls of sinners and backsliders cross your path every day; don’t let them pass without telling them about Jesus and God’s salvation. You could be the only one to reach them, turn them and win them. You cannot afford to miss that eternal soul that is heading fast toward the judgment – you could be their life saver, their light and opportunity to see Jesus, to come to the cross and be saved. You my friend could be their only Hope and if you fail, another soul will go into Hell! Can I say again – where is our burden for the Lost?

**RESCUED FROM THE FIRE**

Jude said – and of some have compassion, making a difference and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating the garments spotted by the flesh.

 A few years ago over in the back of Ashland Ky, a man was driving down the street when he saw a house being engulfed in flames. He jumped out and ran upon the porch and was able to knock his way through the door, ran in the hot smoke filled room and pulled out an elderly man. The man couldn’t save himself, he was crippled. He held on to his rescuer that pulled him out to safety crying thank you, thank you for saving me!!

 A long time ago out in rural West Virginia in the country where I live, a man was on his way to work a little after 5 in the morning when he looked across the road and saw flames coming out of the eve of someone’s house. He skidded to a stop on the side of the road, ran up the bank, crossed a set of railroad tracks and up the hill and on to the porch and began to beat on the door and the walls crying and shouting – your house is on fire, hey your house is on fire, get out, get out your house is on fire. A man half asleep answered the door and saw the flames now getting bigger and he ran back into the house and got his wife and two little children out to safety!

 Thank God for these rescuers who jeopardized their own lives to save others. But where are those who have a deep agonizing burden to pray and witness to sinners and backsliders and help pull their precious souls out of the flames of a burning Hell? The prophet Isaiah saw that awful pit and said – “Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee.” **Is. 14:9.** “Therefore Hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth shall descend into it. **Is. 5:14.**” Hell and destruction are never full **Prov. 27:20.** When David the psalmist broke God’s commandments, he cried out in his backslidden state – O Lord, let not the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me **Ps. 69:15.**

You can deny this place if you want and say it doesn’t exist, but O my friends it does – it is just as real as Heaven. It is forever and ever, a place where the fire is never quenched and the worm dieth not. There will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. Jesus warned of this awful place and said the rich man begged for one drop of water to cool his tongue. He said it would be better for you to pluck out your eye or cut your hand off if they offended you than to be cast into Hell.

 Many in the Church world don’t believe this sobering truth, if they did, they wouldn’t live the way they’re living and doing the things they do! Our modern day prosperity teaching churches of name it and claim it are making merchandise out of precious souls and not giving them the truth that they must be saved. Their messages are based on money and giving and these so called preachers have become rich. They don’t preach that you have to repent and be converted and come out of the world. While these false prophets and teachers and their congregations dance and sway, multitudes are being deceived and going to Hell. They are too worldly and entertainment minded to warn the people of the coming judgment of God. God’s Salvation is Holy, this is a Holy Way! If the righteous scarcely be saved, then where will the sinner and the ungodly appear? OH GOD HELP US!!

**MILLIONS LEAVING THIS WORLD WITHOUT**

**GOD**

If a Bell were hung high in the heavens and the angels rung it whenever a person was lost, O how continuous and without ceasing would it toll for men and women gone down, for honor and integrity of precious lives lost, for souls lost beyond recall. Does this touch you? Fifty six million people will die this year across the globe. That is an average of over 153,000 each day. The most recent statistic for our nation alone, our beloved America, nine years ago 2,473,018 people died. That means that almost 7,000 souls a day left this world and went into eternity either to Heaven or to the Awful place called Hell. How many left knowing and serving God? How many of these precious souls loved Jesus and were saved? This is a sobering fact that we face every day. You or I have no promise of tomorrow, neither do our loved ones, our neighbors and friends. Don’t you think we ought to mention Jesus to them and try with all our heart to reach them before it is too late?

**Heb. 9:27** – It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment! Millions are being weighed in the balance and are found wanting! They will die and go to the grave a stranger to Jesus Christ.

**O GOD FORGIVE US FOR DOING NOTHING!**

 In a small Church on the East Coast a pastor delivered a sermon on abortion, and after the service a German man who had lived in Nazi Germany told of his experience: “I lived in Germany during the Nazi Holocaust. I considered myself a Christian. We heard about what was happening to the Jews, but we tried to distance ourselves from it because, what could any of us do to stop it?

 A railroad track ran behind our small Church and each Sunday morning we could hear the whistle in the distance and then the wheels coming over the tracks. We became disturbed when we heard the cries coming from the train as it passed by. We realized it was carrying Jews like cattle in the cars! Week after week the whistle would blow. We dreaded to hear the sound of those wheels because we knew that we would hear the cries of the Jews in route to the ovens and death camps. Their screams tormented us.

 We knew the time the train was coming and when we heard the whistle blow we began singing hymns. By the time the train came past our Church we were singing at the top of our voices. If we heard the screams, then we would sing louder until we heard them no more. Years have passed and no one talks about it anymore. But I still hear that train whistle in my sleep. O God forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians.”

**IT’S TOO LATE – I’M GOING TO HELL**

I read the testimony of a man who said his friend was dying of a dreadful disease that suddenly took hold on him. He was a good man in the community, good to give and help others but he wasn’t a Christian and would not go to Church. He rejected God all his life and wouldn’t let Jesus in his heart. No one could get him to see his need to pray. This man said – I sat by his bedside and tried to talk to him and reason with him about his soul and get him to pray, but when I finished, he fixed his eyes on me, then looked at his wife and children and said – I am dying and I’m going to Hell! It’s too late, too late, I’m lost forever! If I ever saw horror and gloom and a countenance that showed the last ray of hope, if ever I saw despair, it was there. We were all stupefied. Everyone was weeping. Many of the people who he had befriended and helped were there, but their cries and prayers could not save him. His words to us of dying were true and turning over as if to hide his face from us, in a violent convulsion of fear he burst a blood vessel and died!

 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God – He’s a consuming fire!

**RUINED SOULS**

**HEADED FOR THE JUDGMET**

It’s like a man who borrows a thing from his neighbor to use, he then brings it back to him dirty, broken and spoiled – the neighbor refuses to take it back again. So is the people who ruin their souls by sin – they can’t return them to God in death – He refuses to receive them! My heart cries in this Newsletter for people I love and care about who cannot see their desperate need to get their heart right with God. O precious soul, you are headed for the Judgment.

Daniel the prophet over 2500 yrs. ago saw the Judgment of God: **Dan 7:9** ¶ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

 **10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

600 years passed, then Jesus appeared to John on the Isle of Patmos and gave him a vision of the great reckoning day when the billions of souls of the sinners will stand before the Almighty: **Rev. 20:11** ¶ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

 **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

 **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

 **14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

 **15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**WHERE’S OUR BURDEN?**

**QUOTES:**  Missionary **David Brainard** to the American Indians in the mid 1700’s – “I cared not where or how I lived or what hardships I went through so I could gain souls for Christ. While I slept I dreamed about it and when I woke, it was the first thing I thought of! He died at 29! The great **John Knox,** minister to Scotland in the 1500’s – he stood up against Catholicism and cried out to God – “Lord, give me Scotland or I die!” **Samuel Hadley** – “God, the sin of New York city is breaking my Heart!” **J. O. Fraser**, missionary to the Lisu people of China – “Give me converts and I can truly say I’m happy even if I live in a pigsty (hogpen)!”

**Henry Martyn** – on the shores of India, “Here, let me burn out for God!” **R.A. Torrey** – “I would rather win souls than be the greatest king or emporer on earth. My one ambition in life is to win as many souls as possible.”

The great preacher **William Booth** who founded the Salvation Army – “I’m very tired, but must go on! A fire is in my bones, Oh God, what can I say – Souls! Souls! Souls! My heart hungers for souls!”

 This kind of burden is not merely asked for, worked up and wished for – it must come from God! It is birthed in the heart by the Holy Ghost from agonizing with God in prayer! It is the Spirit that deals with you, showing you and letting you feel the need to reach out to perishing souls. **George Whitefield** in the 1700’s would lay prostrate on the ground with such agony and burden that he felt himself was doomed and cut off from God, praying for the souls that were lost. He said – “Lord, give me souls or take my soul!” In light of all this and the vision the early Church had in Acts, where do we stand? How sensitive are we to the lost souls around us today?

 An evangelist holding a revival in a certain city decided to walk to his Motel room after service one night. The Lord told him to walk through the alley. When he entered, the Holy Ghost told him to yell and cry out – don’t do it, stop, don’t do it God loves you! He didn’t know it but a man was getting ready to jump to his death from 3 stories up. The Lord directed him to look up. He saw the man, was able to stop him and win him to Christ! May God Bless my Readers!!