

# *Only Pay For What You Need*

Joe Slater

I suppose you've seen those obnoxious insurance commercials insisting that you should switch to that company because you'll only pay for what you need. Unless your name is Rip Van Winkle, you know that all insurers let you select the coverage you want. If your vehicle has no loan against it, you aren't required to have full coverage. Not exactly news, right?

How does "only pay for what you need" apply to our relationship with God? Just how much religion do you need, and what will it cost you?

Some would say they don't need much at all. "I'm a good person. I don't drink or cuss or smoke or . . . (you extend the list as far as you like). So why would I need religion?" Let us be reminded: "*There is none righteous, no, not one*" (Romans 3:10). I doubt that you're any better than Cornelius (Acts 10), who needed to hear "*words by which you and all your household will be saved*" (Acts 11:14). Cornelius needed full coverage; so do you!

As to what it will cost you, the premium is astronomical. If you had all the money in the world, you couldn't start to commence to begin to make a down-payment on the interest! Fortunately for us, Jesus paid the price for our redemption: His blood (1 Peter 1:19).

There is a sense, however in which it will cost you everything. Jesus said, "*Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple*" (Luke 14:33). We're not talking dollars-and-cents here. We're talking about dedication and willing surrender to the will of Christ – not half-hearted lip service, but genuine commitment to the Lord.

Jesus paid for everything you need. Do you mean it when you sing, "I surrender all"?

# ***The Need To Understand***

Christians must understand that the nucleus of the faith is not how happy one is 'down at church' or how much better life is now that the whole family is attending Sunday School. All of these matters are by-products of being a Christian. They are not the heart and soul of the faith.

The nucleus of the Christian faith is Jesus Christ. When He is kept at the center, one is joyful, whether living in prison or in tranquility. Making the earthly joys of being a Christian the focal point of faith is like filling one's cup with the aroma of perking coffee rather than the coffee itself.

Imagine how startled Paul would have been had a Christian told him his faith was producing boredom rather than joy! The apostle surely would have asked, "Were your sins not forgiven? Do you not have the hope of heaven? Do you not have the privilege of prayer? Do you not worship God? Are your fellow-Christians not your brethren? How is it possible that your faith is producing boredom rather than joy?"

Christianity and 'churchianity' are not synonyms. The latter is composed of matters which draw religious men to a common cause. The former is submission to the crucified Son of God. Christianity thrives through both sunshine and rain; 'churchianity' thrives in sunshine, but falters when it rains. Understanding the difference is of utmost importance!

--Hollis Miller (via *Voice of Truth International*)

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## ***Those In High Places***

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high places, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.* (2 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV)

I recently attended a meeting in which a local law enforcement official was the guest speaker. The few minutes of formal sharing of information, as well as in answering of questions were valuable and seemed to me to be time well-spent. I would like to share some observations gleaned from that time together.

Most law enforcement officers seem to be sincere and hard-working men and women. They care about our community and want to do all they can to help us. They also care about moral principles and desire to stick to them in this community. The request for prayer, uttered in our meeting, impressed me and encouraged me to think more and more about the verse printed at the beginning of this article.

Beverage alcohol is a menace. Though many people were concerned about increase in DUI arrests when our county went "wet," that particular thing has not increased as much as another problem. Domestic violence incidents and arrests have increased dramatically, according to our local official. Vital relationships are harmed, not enhanced by the presence of alcohol. Are revenues raised through alcohol sales worth the dissolution of relationships and infliction of physical harm? The poignant truth of Proverbs 20:1 still rings in our ears: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise."

Law enforcement officers cannot "do it all." In order for law enforcement to be effective, the vast majority of the citizen ship must be cooperative. Christians should be the best citizens of a county, city, state and country. When we obey the laws and support the punishment of law-breakers, we keep the law of God (Romans 13:1-4).

In times of chaos throughout our country, the corruption of some law enforcement officers and higher officials, let us praise and support the good ones. Let us pray for all of them. Let us be the best citizens we can be.

--Lance Cordle (via *Bulletin Gold*)