

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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**John C. Robertson**

## **The Word of God is here to Stay**

The word of God is the standard for man's eternal existence. Divine revelation is identified as the truth or the gospel (Eph. 1:17). The prophet Amos viewed it as a plumb-line that establishes acceptable and unacceptable behavior (Amos 7:7-8). The prophet Hosea compared the word of God to a immovable landmark that establishes right from wrong (Hosea 5:10-11). Jesus said that God's word was the divinely established truth that makes a division between the identity of the righteous and wicked (Matt. 7:22ff). Divine revelation may be viewed as black and white with no shades of gray (I Cor. 14:33). The design of divine revelation is eternal, non yielding to man's opinions, and set in stone (II Cor. 1:12; 2:17; etc). Jesus said, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away*" (Matt. 24:35). The prophet Zechariah said that men's fathers and the prophets of the land would pass away but the words of Jehovah God will not (see Zech. 1:5-6).

Knowing the nature of gospel truths helps us to see just how daring and reckless it would be for man to exchange the truth for a lie (see Rom. 1:25; II Pet. 2:10). How can one change the unchangeable? How can someone move that which immovable? Try as man may they cannot and will not ever be able to change the word of God. Those who move God's landmark and try to re-establish the standard of truth have not only trespassed (Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13) but they shall pay an eternal high price (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18ff). The word of God is clear on the matter. Those who try to fight against God's divinely established revelation shall fail (Acts 26:14). Those who try to limit, conceal, and or enchain the gospel's truths shall also fail (II Tim. 2:9). The apostle Paul said, "*If we are faithless, he abides*

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

### Announcements:

We welcome **Sarah Parvin** to our fellowship. Sarah is a student at MSU and has asked to be identified with our local church. Sarah's contact is 817-521-0451.

**Joe Smarr's brother Jason** has recently broken his collar bone in a motorcycle accident. The Smarrs have been out of town with Joe's brother.

**Erin Mixon** fell and broke her foot this past Thursday afternoon. Please keep her in your prayers too.

**Cindy Gray** got back the results of her recent MRI. The test showed no swelling or fluid on the brain which is good news. She continues; however, to have severe headaches. Keep her in your prayers too.

**Nina Gray's other daughter, Patricia Higginson**, has been suffering of late from dementia. Nina asked us to keep her in your prayers. Nina will be going to Florida latter this month to visit her daughter.

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home)

**Ila Belle Windham**  
(at home but request no calls)

*faithful; for he cannot deny himself" (II Tim. 2:13). God's promises of salvation remain no matter who perverts, rejects, or disobeys it's principles.*

The word of God is reliable. We can count on its consistency and truth for all eternity. Its like going to Walmart for dog food or shampoo (no disrespect intended). Dog food and shampoo are always in the same place. We walk into the store and know exactly where to go. We get what we need and check out. Likewise, if I want to study the subject of baptism, redemption, God's grace, the covenants, and any other spiritual topic I know exactly where to go in God's word to find it. Year in and year out baptism and other subjects are in the same book, chapter, and verse. The divine standard has not changed over thousands of years and it will remain that way for ever. God's people can be confident and find security in such consistency that has been divinely established by Jehovah.

The firm foundation of established standards of truth equate to law. God's divine revelation to man is identified as law throughout the Bible (see Rom. 3:27; Gal. 6:2 etc.). All men, at some point in life, violate God's divine standard or law (Rom. 3:23). When one violates law it is termed sin or lawlessness (I Jn. 3:4). God's all time intention for man; however, is absolute sinless perfection (Matt. 5:48; Gal. 3:10; I Pet. 1:15ff). Herein lies the distinction between the first and second law or covenants of God. The first law (Law of Moses) could not remove sin in man's life (Heb. 10:1ff). The second law (Law of Christ) provides justification from sins committed and thereby the capacity of man to maintain perfection (Heb. 7:18-19). All of mankind ought to seriously consider the eternal divine nature of Jehovah God and His high expectations of man (I Jn. 1:1-5). The Lord tells us that no unclean (sinful) person will be in heaven (Rev. 21:27).

Have you considered the standard of divine revelation? I pray that you would with a since of both urgency and seriousness consider the state of your soul in relation to the divinely established standard. The standard explains what you must do to have your sins (lawless deeds) erased, justified, and or forgiven (see Acts 2:38). Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins? Are you giving it your all to live Godly in this present world (Rev. 2:10)?

*John C. Robertson*

# What shall a Man give in Exchange for his Soul?

A Study of Matthew 16:21-28

## Introduction:

At times, if we are not careful, the cares of this world may overtake us. Satan's lures of worldliness and false teaching can get the better of even the strongest Christians. Jesus, in his usual masterful way, takes an incident that involved Peter's faulty judgment and delivers a divine message of help to all who wage war against Satan. Jesus explains that seeking after him involves denying self. When one denies their own selfish desires to follow after Christ we make it manifest to the Lord that there is nothing that we are willing to exchange for the eternity of our souls.

### I. **Jesus Rebukes Peter (Matthew 16:21-23):**

- A. Jesus "MUST" go to Jerusalem and be killed (16:21)
- B. Peter losses sight of the spiritual purpose of Christ and man

### II. **Jesus explains what it means to "come after me" (16:24-25):**

- A. Recognize your need for Christ's blessings
- B. To recognize truth and be willing to learn
- C. A willingness to even be persecuted if need be
- D. To set aside human reason and follow God's ways

### III. **What shall a man give in Exchange for his Soul (16:26-28)?**

- A. Shall we give our physical lives (i.e., avoid pain and persecution for the sake of immediate peace)?
- B. Shall we "save face" now and suffer the reproach and embarrassment of standing for truth?
- C. Shall we give in to the lust of the flesh?
- D. Shall we seek or be minded to obtain earthly glory?
- E. Shall we be minded to obtain the riches of this world?

## Conclusion:

There are men with the means to fulfill every lustful desire. There are men who have amassed great wealth on this earth. There are people who obtain great glory from men due to important contributions to society. There are also poor and lowly people who have little yet are not willing to suffer the shame and reproach that comes with being a Christian. Immediate comfort and gratification of fleshly desires will in no way sustain one on into eternity. God's elect are not so concerned about earthly comfort and gratification in the here and now. God's elect are wise in that they know of the greatness of eternal time in relationship to our immediate time frame we live in. God's elect are able to see well down the road so that they make the wise decisions now. God's elect want to go to heaven!