

It was not cheap!

“What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated” (Thomas Paine, 1776).

The truthfulness of this statement can be seen in nigh unto every aspect of life. Everything in life has a price tag and the willingness of an individual to pay the price is related to the “dearness only that gives every thing its value.” With the Fourth of July rapidly approaching, a focus is placed upon the freedoms our nation enjoys as a result of the blessings of God and the blood that was shed by our fathers in order to pass those freedoms on to their children.

Our nation is experiencing, and has been for decades, a decline in an appreciation of these freedoms that entailed the shedding of life, limb, and hope of achieving the very thing that those who fought envisioned, i.e., a continued freedom for the families they hoped to engender. How many godly men and women were never brought into the world as a result of the sacrifices of their hopeful fathers?

The phrase, “What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly,” has included statements such as, “The child was born with a silver spoon in its mouth.” This exemplifies the fact that what requires no labor to obtain has little or no value. Many know how much something costs, but do not know how much it cost to produce. As our nation regales children with party favors and balloons, the cost is most generally lost. There is a Netflix documentary that would be beneficial for all age groups of our nation to view: *Tales of the Night, Children in Need*, Part I and II. “What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly.”

King David understood the value of godly service, when he “said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for Jehovah, nor offer a burnt-offering without cost” (1 Chron. 21:24).

In the present-day religious world, it appears that individuals have lost a mind of reason when they read the apostle Paul’s affirmation: “the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). Ah, salvation is free, i.e., costs us nothing!

The ole cliché “nothing is free” is true, even in the realm of salvation. It is true that access to eternal life is “the free gift of God,” but that does not mean there was no cost in providing, or no cost in obtaining. God’s cost: “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time” (1 Tim. 2:5-6). Man’s cost: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).

Would you “take that which is...for Jehovah,” and offer unto God that which is “without cost”? What dearness do you place on salvation? The Lord’s message to Jew and Gentile, is this: “that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance” (Acts 26:20). Ross Triplett, Sr.