

## Make a decision.

Mark 12:28-31

*And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.<sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'<sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

Q: What is the soul?

A: The deepest part of who you are. That part of you that lives beyond the grave.

Q: What does it mean to love God with all of my soul?

A: Where He is the point and purpose of our life. He is both our goal and fuel. In other words, love God with your everything.

Cheap "Soul fuels" – Mark 4:19 *but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

- Busyness: *cares of this world*
- Deceitfulness of riches
- Distractions: *and the desires for other things*

"A belief's strength is the degree to which you are convinced the belief is true...The more certain you are of a belief, the more it becomes a part of your very soul, and the more you rely on it as a basis for action." – J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God With All Your Mind*<sup>1</sup>

### Promises of Jesus Christ to preserve our souls

- He will be your anchor - Hebrews 6:13-20

*For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself,<sup>14</sup> saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."<sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.<sup>16</sup> For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.<sup>17</sup> So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,<sup>18</sup> so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.<sup>19</sup> We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,<sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

- He will be your victory in what wars against your soul - 1 Peter 2:11-12

*Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.<sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

- He will be the rest for your soul - Matthew 11:28-30

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

- He will guide and guard your soul - 1 Peter 2:24-25

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.<sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

- He will sustain your soul - 1 Peter 4:19

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

C. S. Lewis: "The Christian way is different. Harder, and easier. Christ says, 'Give me All.' I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want you."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God With All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul*, ed. Dallas Willard (Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1997), 74.

<sup>2</sup> C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York, HarperCollins: 2000), 196.