

Invested For Jesus

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As a rule I pay no attention to the stuff written on walls, but this was unavoidable. There in a spot where no one could miss it, someone had scrawled, "Jesus saves." Beneath it someone else had added, "But Moses invests."

I choked off a chuckle and attempted to dismiss the graffiti from my mind. But I couldn't. It started me thinking.

It is true that Jesus saves. He saves from the guilt, the penalty, the power, and the practice of sin. He saves souls. He saves marriages. He saves lives from being wasted in selfishness. He saves people from the meaninglessness and lostness of an empty existence in alienation from God.

Jesus saves. We must never underestimate that terse statement. It is true. It means no less than a life transformation.

Still, it does not tell the whole story. "Jesus saves" is a declaration of what He does *for* us. The rest of the story is what He does *with us*. Jesus saves; He also *invests*.

Eternal life is the gift of God, received by faith in Jesus Christ. It costs us nothing. At the same time, true saving faith in Christ includes submission to the Savior. That leads into a discipleship that costs us *everything*. Here we both lose our lives and find them.

Jesus said so. "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:39).

Jesus invests those whom He saves. He invests them into His kingdom, the most urgent and worthy cause. It calls for the full mobilization of all redeemed resources. It deserves our full participation.

Our Lord does not spare us; neither does He waste us. We are His by redemption. By investing us in His service, He is devoting His most priceless possession. He loves us and He knows what He is doing with us. We can be assured of that.

God's love has always led Him to invest His best. Calvary remains forever the greatest demonstration of that.

The Bible contains a history of invested lives. The record of this investment during Old Testament times is summed up in the last verses of Hebrews chapter 11. In the New Testament, The Acts Of The Apostles is one great investment program. We see its high cost in the beaten bodies of the apostles, the rock-crushed and lifeless form of Stephen, the headless torso of James, and the bone-tiring toils and sufferings of Paul.

Church history is filled with divine investments. A voluntary army of missionaries and martyrs marches triumphantly across its pages. Some are famous; many are unknown. All are heaven's nobility. They have been granted their earnest desire to make the willing self-sacrifice to bless a hostile and ungrateful world.

Among their numbers are the early Methodist circuit-riding preachers, half of whom never reached their 30th birthday! Many lost their lives attempting to cross rain-swollen rivers in a love-constrained effort to reach some isolated frontier settlement with the gospel.

The investment goes on today as others crowd the record with their challenging lives of love and faith. It is an expensive investment, but well worth it in view of the priceless values involved. The honor and glory of God, the triumph of His kingdom, the eternal salvation of precious souls, the perfecting of the Church for everlasting glory—these are the infinitely valuable considerations; these are the glorious dividends.

Thus Paul could eagerly say, "I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls" (2 Corinthians 12:15). "Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all" (Philippians 2:17).

God the Son invested Himself by death on the cross. In so doing He accomplished the redemption of all who believe. Should we who are commissioned to carry this gospel to all the world be exempt from sacrifices? Does not the same love that motivated our Savior also constrain us?

It is time to reexamine our priorities, staying on our faces before God until we begin to see things as He sees them—from the perspective of Calvary.

Away with trifles, petty indulgences, wasteful expenditures on whims and toys, the empty vanities of this present age! Let the cry of our heart be: "Lord, here am I. Prepare me. Use me. Send me. Invest me. Spend me. For Your kingdom and glory. For Jesus' sake. Amen and amen!"