

# POWER

"... the gospel ... is the power of God unto salvation ..." (Romans 1:16)

## THE WORST DEAL EVER MADE

by Wade L. Webster

**D**own through human history, there have been some really bad deals made. For example, in the Louisiana Purchase, the U.S. acquired 828,000 square miles of land for approximately three cents an acre. While this wasn't such a bad deal for our country, it was a horrible deal for the French who sold it to us.

More recently, the 2007 draft was a disaster for two professional teams. The Oakland Raiders had the first pick in the NFL draft and the Portland Trailblazers had the first pick in the NBA draft. Both franchises spent millions to sign their respective selections. Yet, just five years later, neither multi-million dollar pick is playing. In hindsight, these were bad deals. However, they were not the worst deals ever made.

The worst deal in history doesn't involve land purchased for pennies or sports selections signed for millions. It doesn't involve Enron stock or swamp land. The worst deal ever made involves the soul. It involves trading the soul for the world. Jesus asked, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mt. 16:26).

If someone offered you every house, every car, every boat, every plane, every acre, every diamond, every ruby, every sapphire, every pearl, every oil well, every business, and every dollar in the world for your soul, would you take it?

If you accepted the offer, you would live to regret it. Your soul is worth more than all of those things combined and compounded a million times over. Yet, as you know, countless people trade their souls for the world every day. Likely, on a daily basis, Satan makes this sales pitch to you. Let me give you three reasons why trading your soul for the world is a bad deal.

### The World Is Passing Away

Trading your soul for the world is a bad trade because it involves trading the eternal (the soul) for the temporal (the world).

John declared, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth

the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:15-17; cf. 2 Cor. 4:18).

In like manner, Peter declared, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Pet. 3:10-11; cf. John 6:27).

This world is passing away. Therefore, we must not make it our home. It makes no sense to trade that which is not passing away (the soul) for that which is passing away (the world).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Mt. 6:19-21; Jam. 1:11; Prov. 23:5; 27:24; Eccl. 5:11-16).

Things in this world are

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corruptible. In this life, we have to deal with rust, moths, and thieves. Why would we trade the incorruptible for this? Like Paul, we should be striving for incorruptible crowns, rather than for corruptible ones.

Paul wrote, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

## The World Cannot Satisfy

Trading your soul for the world is a bad trade because it involves trading your soul for that which cannot satisfy.

In the long ago, through the prophet Isaiah, God declared, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness" (Isa. 55:2; cf. Lk. 15:11-14).

In like manner, Solomon wrote, "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity" (Eccl.

5:10). Man's eyes are never satisfied (Eccl. 4:8) and his appetite is never filled (Eccl. 6:7). He can always see something else that he wants (Prov. 1:8; 27:20; Hab. 2:5-9).

The world is like saltwater, it doesn't quench thirst. It only magnifies it. Only God and His word can really satisfy man's thirst.

In His discussion with the Samaritan woman, Jesus explained the difference between well water and living water. Well water, even that drawn for Jacob's well, does not satisfy. A person has to return every day to draw again. However, living water satisfies. Jesus declared, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst ; but the water that I

shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:13-14; cf. Isa. 58:11).

Thankfully, the Samaritan woman found this living water. However, others like those of Jeremiah's day foolishly traded this water for that which could not satisfy. They bought into the devil's lie and traded their soul for the world.

Through Jeremiah, God declared, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, **and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water**" (Jer. 2:13). They traded a fresh, flowing fountain for a broken and empty cistern. How foolish!

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**JOB: A MAN WHO LOST  
EVERYTHING EXCEPT FOR HIS FAITH  
JULY 22-26, 2012**

**Sunday – July 22**

9:30 - **Between The Hedges: God's Care, Satan's Charge, Job's Complaint (Job 1:10; 3:23) – Dan Cates**

10:30 - **Man Giveth Up The Ghost, And Where Is He (Job 14:10)? – Curtis Cates**

7:00 – **I Know That My Redeemer Liveth: Keeping The Faith In An Age Of Doubt - Rick Brumback**

8:00 – **What Is Man That Thou Shouldest Magnify Him? And That Thou Shouldest Set Thine Heart Upon Him? (Job 7:17) - Greg Dismuke**

**Monday – July 23**

9:00 – **What Job's Friends Did Right & Wrong (Job 2:11, 13:4; 16:2, etc) - Jeff Archey**

10:00 – **Thus Did Job Continually: Spiritual Constancy (Job 1:5) – Chuck Webster**

11:00 – **Wherefore Do The Wicked Live, Become Old, Yea, Are Mighty In Power (Job 21:7)? - Bobby Liddell**

1:00 – **There Was A Man: The Historicity of Job & His Story – Eric Lyons**

2:00 – **If A Man Die, Shall He Live Again? (Job 14:14) – John Baker**

2:00 – **The Christian Woman & Affliction - Carol Harris**

7:00 – **Gird Up Now Thy Loins Like A Man (Job 38:3; 40:7) - Steve Higginbotham**

8:00 – **Longing For Death: Biblical Answers To End Of Life Decisions (Job 3:21; 7:15-16) - Brad Harrub**

**Tuesday – July 24**

9:00 – **Though He Slay Me, Yet Will I Trust In Him (Job 13:15-16) - Nathan Liddell**

10:00 – **A Few Days And Full of Trouble: What We Learn About Life From Job's Struggle (Job 14:1) – Terry Jones**

11:00 – **Building A Marriage That Can Weather The Storms Of Life – Financial Setbacks, Health Problems, Death of a Child, Etc. - Eric Owens**

1:00 – **Words Will Never Hurt Me: Exposing The Myth that Words Don't Hurt (Job 19:2; cf. 16:4-5; 21:3) – James Eaves**

2:00 – **The Questions Of The Creator: What Job Learned About The Creation (26:7-10; 38:16; 38:22) - Charles Pugh III**

2:00 – **Guarding Our Lips Against Foolish Speaking (Job 2:9-10) - Celine Sparks**

7:00 – **Our Adversary & Accuser: What We Learn About Satan From Job's Struggle – Cliff Goodwin**

8:00 – **The End of the Lord: What We Learn About God From Job's Struggle (Jam. 5:11) - B. J. Clarke**

**Wednesday – July 25**

9:00 – **A Daysman Betwixt Us: What Job Wanted & We Have (Job 9:33) – Stephen Sutton**

10:00 – **It May Be That My Sons Have Sinned, And Cursed God In Their Hearts: The Hidden Affairs Of The Heart (Job 1:5)- Paul Meacham**

11:00 – **Coming Forth As Gold (Job 23:10) - Garland Elkins**

1:00 – **When Silence Becomes Sin (Job 31:34) - Adam Cozort**

2:00 – **Why Men Suffer - Robert Jefferies**

2:00 – **The Fairest Of Them All: The Beauty of God's Daughters (Job 42:13-15; cf. 1 Pet. 3:1-6) – Hannah Giselbach**

7:00 – **A Covenant Every Man Ought To Have With His Eyes (Job 31:1) - Allen Webster**

8:00 – **More Than My Necessary Food: The Proper Esteem For The Word Of God (Job 23:12) – Eddie Parrish**

**Thursday – July 26**

9:00 – **Eschewing Evil In A Culture That Embraces It (Job 1:1, 8) - Rick Owens**

10:00 – **Among The Ashes: Blessing God Even When Things Go Wrong (Job 1:21-22; 2:8-10) – David Wright**

11:00 – **It Isn't Funny When Just Men Become The Joke (Job 12:4; 30:9; cf. Ezek. 14:14, 16, 18) – Billy Bland**

1:00 – **Pure And Undefined Religion: Meeting The Needs Of The Widows, The Fatherless, The Poor, And The Strangers (Job 29:12-16; 30:25; 31:16-21, 32) - Andy Brewer**

2:00 – **My Servant Job Shall Pray For You: For Him Will I Accept (Job 42:7-10) - Justin Paschal**

2:00 – **With Friends Like These, Who Needs Enemies – Maggie Colley**

7:00 – **Thoroughly Weighing Grief: Learning Not To Make Light Of People's Problems (Job 6:1-3) - Tom Holland**

8:00 – **Ye Have Heard Of The Patience Of Job (Jam. 5:11) - Robert R. Taylor, Jr.**



Deuteronomy 5:32

Wade Webster, Editor

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**SOUTHAVEN**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

## THE WORST DEAL EVER MADE

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### **The World Cannot Be Taken With You**

Trading your soul for the world is a bad trade because what is obtained in this world cannot be taken with you to the next. Paul declared, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7).

When we die, we are going to leave behind what we have stored up here. Solomon, an extremely rich man, understood this truth. He wisely declared, "As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labor, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath labored for the wind?" (Eccl. 5:15-16; cf. Psa. 49:17). Solomon knew that what he had accumulated on this earth would be left to the man that came after him (Eccl. 2:18-19). Sadly, others like the rich farmer, missed this truth (Lk. 12:16-20).

Wise is the person that understands that we came into this world with nothing and that we will leave with nothing. As you know, Job clearly understood this. When he lost virtually all his material possessions, he declared, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21). Clearly, Job's treasure was not laid up on this earth. His treasure and his heart were in heaven (Mt. 6:19-21; Col. 3:1-2).

The devil, the great deceiver, is trying to get us to trade our souls for the world. For sure, he is a smooth salesman. As He did with Jesus, he will show us "all the kingdoms of the world" and "the glory of them" (Mt. 4:8). If we are not careful, we will be taken in by his subtle sale's pitch. We must not be ignorant of His devices (2 Cor. 2:11). If we will look at things closely, we will see that the deal that Satan is offering is a very bad deal. Why would we trade our souls for that which is passing away, for that which cannot satisfy, and for that which cannot be taken with us?