**Soul-winning**

Excerpted from Arlen Chitwood's *Judgment Seat of Christ*, Ch. 5

Soul-winning in the New Testament is largely misunderstood in Christian circles today. The common terminology, which is not at all correct, is to equate soul-winning with carrying the message of salvation by grace to the unsaved. In fact, equating soul-winning with the message of salvation by grace serves only to obscure both issues, leaving one hopelessly mired in a sea of misinterpretation. Soul-winning is one thing, and proclaiming the message of salvation by grace is another. The former has to do with the saved, and the latter has to do with the unsaved. The messages involved in both issues MUST be kept separate and distinct, which necessitates Christians understanding proper distinctions in these two realms.

Salvation by grace, carried to the unsaved, is the presentation of the simple gospel message. The unsaved are to be told “*that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures*” (**1 Corinthians 2:1**, **2**; **15:3**). Christ has paid the penalty for sin. The work of redemption has been accomplished on man’s behalf, and God is satisfied. Provision has been made for unredeemed man to be saved by receiving that which Christ has done on his behalf. And he does this by simply *believing on the Lord Jesus Christ* (**Acts 16:31**).

Redeemed man, on the other hand, is to hear an entirely different message. He is to be taught *the reason* for his salvation. He is to be told that Christ has *gone away* “*to receive for Himself a kingdom*”; he is to be told that *during the time of his Lord*’*s absence* he is to be busy with the talents and pounds that the Lord delivered to and left in charge of His servants (Christians); he is to be told that *a day of reckoning* is coming; he is to be told that *the Lord will return to judge His servants* on the basis of their faithfulness in carrying out His business during His time of absence; and he is to be told that *the outcome of this judgment* will determine every Christians’ position in the coming kingdom (**Matthew 25:14-30**; **Luke 19:11-27**).

And it is within this overall message to the saved that one finds the salvation of the soul taught in Scripture, not within the message of salvation by grace, proclaimed to the unsaved.

“Soul-winning” has to do with *winning those who are* *already saved* *to a life of faithfulness to the Lord*. “Soul-winning” is *winning one*’*s life*. This involves winning Christians (those possessing “life”) to be occupied with the Lord’s business during His time of absence, anticipating His return. And more specifically, this involves winning Christians to be occupied in this manner with that portion of the Lord’s business delivered to them personally.

Illustrated in the parables of the talents and the pounds, one servant was responsible only for bringing forth an increase in the talents or the pounds *that had been placed in his possession*, not in those that had been placed in another servant’s possession. Issues and determinations resulting from the judgment seat will be based strictly on *the evaluation of works performed by Christians in complete keeping with that set forth in these two parables*.

Direct references to the salvation of the soul are found in New Testament passages such as **Matthew 16:24-27**; **Hebrews 10:38**, **39**; **James 1:21**; **5:19**, **20**; **1 Peter 1:9-11** and are always spoken of in a future sense within a context dealing with those who are already saved. Soul-winning is associated *with the righteous acts of the saints*, *with overcoming*, and *with* *one day being extended the privilege of eating of the tree of life*. This is the reason that soul-winning is found within a context of this nature in **Proverbs 11:30**. It is *the wise* who win souls (win lives).

*Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever*. (**Daniel 12:3**)