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# Tower of Strength

**“The name of the Lord is a strong tower  
The righteous runs into it and is safe.”**

**—Proverbs 18:10**

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## The \$2,400 Telephone

What kind of telephone would you expect to get if you paid \$2,400 for it?

You would anticipate getting the latest in technology, possibly a super smart phone. The last thing you would expect would be just a plain old rotary phone that was not cordless; had no call-waiting, caller-ID or speed dialing; and would not even accept touch-tone service. But that is exactly what my parents got. As a matter of fact, they had two of them for the same price.

You see, when they moved into their house in June 1958, no one could own their own phone. You had to rent it from the phone company. So they rented two of them—a desk model for the den and a wall model for the recreation room. Each phone cost them \$5.00 per month on their bill. They paid that amount for each phone for 40 years, 480 months. When you multiply it out it comes to \$2,400 per phone.

Several years ago when the government regulations changed and people could now own their own phone equipment, they just never bothered doing it. Their phones worked and they were happy

with them. Anyway, five dollars is such a small amount. So they kept paying that rental fee every month never realizing how expensive those old rotary phones were to them.

As my parents never realized how costly those phones were, many people are in the same boat when it comes to the wages of sin. Sin seems pleasurable to them (Heb. 11:24–25) and they don't seem to suffer much because of it. What they do not realize is that if they continue in sin they will find it to be very costly in the day of judgment. Romans 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death..." The death in this passage is not the physical death which comes at the end of our lives here upon the earth. Rather, it is the "second death" of eternal separation from God in a place of torment. Revelation 21:8 says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Jesus tells us the high cost of sin in Matthew 16:26 where He says, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" The sinner forfeits his eternal soul when he sins. Because of ignorance, many never realize what a price they are paying for their sins.

There is hope, though. Jesus died on the cross to pay the high cost of sin (1 Peter 1:18–19). Sadly, some, knowing of that sacrifice and the saving power of the gospel (Rom. 1:16), refuse to obey Christ because they are happy with their lives and possibly even rationalize that if God is a loving God, hell won't be so bad. While God is described as love (1 John 4:8), he is also described as just.

Never underestimate the high price of sin. Wake up to what it really costs you. A little bit here and a little bit there adds up to a tremendous bill in the end. Give obedience to the gospel of Christ to have your sins remitted (Acts. 2:38) so that you will not have to pay with your soul.

—*from an article by Gene Taylor*

# The Gospel According to You

There's a Gospel according to Matthew;  
To Mark and to Luke and John, too.  
There's another that many are reading—  
The Gospel according to you.

All teaching we find in the Bible  
Are but facts we believe to be true;  
You must live them to make them  
The Gospel—the Gospel according to you.

Every day you are writing your Gospel;  
In this life you may never know who  
May be helped or hindered by reading  
The Gospel according to you.

Many read not the words of the Bible;  
I will tell you what some of them do—  
They are reading the book you are writing—  
The Gospel according to you.

There's power in the minister's preaching;  
So you see, I believe this is true;  
But the thing that may tell the most  
Is the Gospel according to you.

God help you to Christ to be faithful,  
And to live all His teaching so true,  
So that all may be seeing His spirit  
In the Gospel according to you.

—*author unknown*

# The Value of Time

To realize the value of one year:  
Ask a student who has failed his final exam.

To realize the value of one month:  
Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week:  
Ask a laborer who skipped his vacation.

To realize the value of one day:  
Ask a minimum wage employee who has 10 kids to feed.

To realize the value of one hour:  
Ask sweethearts who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of one minute:  
Ask a person who has missed the train.

To realize the value of one second:  
Ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of one millisecond:  
Ask the athlete who has settled for the silver medal in the Olympics.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have. "You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). "Make the most of the opportunity (Col. 4:5).

—*from an Ann Lander's Column*

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## Quote of the Week:

"Trust him little who praises everyone. Trust him even less who criticizes everyone. Trust him least who is indifferent about all."

—*Lavater*