

## It Can't Be Purchased

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Acts 8:18-21.** "And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power; that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God."

Simon was interested in salvation, but was lacking in understanding of what he had seen. As he had practiced sorcery he thought that this was something better than what he knew. While the scriptures said that he believed and was baptized the old Simon showed his greed and desire for money. A Christian can be serious about the Lord, but will still face the same desires and wants that he, or she, wanted before. That is where we must

make a decision as to which way we will go in our lives.

Simon thought that this was something that he might be able to purchase and use to make money for himself. By making his offer he showed both his ignorance and his greed. Also he made light of the Holy Spirit by thinking that he could buy and sell him. How foolish are the ideas and desires of man. So many think the same, even in our day.

I knew a man some years ago that was in a group of businessmen who met for the purpose of supporting the business community. He said that one man commented that he went to church as a way to increase his business. There he made new contacts by meeting new people and also they considered him an honest man because he went to church. I don't know what happened to him and how his life went, but I know that if a man plays with God and tries to use him for profit he will suffer the consequences. **Galatians 6:7.** "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Whether a man tries to buy salvation, or the Spirit, as Si-

mon did, either by money, or works, he is making a big mistake. Works will not buy a person's way into heaven. While we want to do good when we can, we can't earn our salvation. It has already been paid for by the blood of Jesus. What we are supposed to do is to believe and to obey the Word of God. Those who enter heaven will be there through and by the Grace of God.

God gives gifts unto men as the scriptures tell us in Ephesians 4: 8. He, God, gives what man cannot buy, either with works, or his worthless money. God gave his son for our salvation. Notice that, he gave his son while we were in sin and didn't deserve this wonderful gift. Those who believe and receive him as Savior will have eternal life. He gives us peace, joy, and many blessings besides. And the point is just this, none, yes none of these did we deserve, or purchase.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." **John 3:16.** How true and how wonderful those words are. He gave and I hope that you have, or will receive his great and wonderful gift - Jesus!

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

### ABRAHAM'S BATTLE WITH THE FIVE KINGS

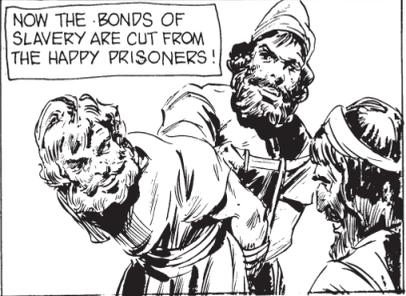
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