

Intro.

- A. In our day of high tech, horrendous time constraints, & discount coupons—many are cost cautious.
1. With a healthy outlook on cost counting, it's good for us to turn attention to things of utmost value.
 2. We cannot travel far down any road without being reminded of the end of this life as we pass a cemetery
 3. Jesus asked, *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, & lose his own soul* **Mt.16:26**
- B. (Read the text)
1. The songwriter deals with the very Biblical concept of counting the cost of discipleship.
 - a. The fact is that many have counted the cost & pay the price over the years! (Abraham, Moses....)
 - b. It's equally true that even more have counted the cost, & turned away. **Jn. 6:66; Mt. 19:22**
 2. Many have counted cost, but relatively few pay price, **Mt. 22:14** *many = called, but few are chosen*

Discuss.**I. There Is A Cost Factor of PERSONAL INVENTORY.**

- A. There are many areas in life where we can share burdens & responsibilities.
1. **Gal. 6:2** – *Bear one another's burdens; 1 Thes. 4:18* *comfort one another*
 2. Shared responsibilities stem from mutual love (**1 Pet. 1:22**) & fellowship in Christ (c. **1 Cor. 12:25**)
- B. While there are certainly mutual & shared responsibilities, Judgment will be on an individual basis.
1. *...Each of us shall give account of himself to God,* **Rom. 14:12**
 2. Need to remember the nature of final Judgment, & take personal inventory, **2 Cor. 5:10-11**
- C. The Personal nature of accountability needs to be understood & appreciated by each of us:
1. *....Be sure YOUR sins will find YOU out,* **Num. 32:23**
 2. **(You)** *Go into all the world & preach the gospel to every creature,* **Mk. 16:15**
 3. *HE who believes & is baptized will be saved....HE who does not believe will be condemned.*
 4. In **Lk. 16:23-24** (Rich man & Lazarus), 13 personal references can be found.
- D. **2 Cor. 13:5** *Examine yourselves, as whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.* TAKE INVENTORY

II. There Is A Cost Factor of Prominence – IMPORTANCE.

- A. Prominence – *Something outstanding, conspicuous.*
1. Prominent things stand out in a way to attract attention.
 2. *Have You Counted the Cost* = prominent because who asked the question: Christ, **Mt. 16:26f**
- B. Significance of this question is seen in the far reaching effects of the answer we each give:
1. **Psa. 9:17** *the wicked shall be turned into hell....*
 2. When we consider God's dealings with people in history, we know what to expect, **2 Pet. 2:4-9**
 3. Although *the way of the transgressor is hard* (**Pro.13:15**), *Blessed are those who hear the word of God & keep it,* **Lk. 11:28**
- C. We should be so-o-o-o thankful that God has told us how important this question is:
- Micah 6:8** *He hath showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*

III. There Is A Cost Factor of INVESTMENT.

- A. **Preachers** must count the cost of investing their time & talent in:
1. study of God's word, **1 Tim. 4:13**, *give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine*
 2. service, as *an example* (**1 Tim. 4:12**) *in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith & in purity.*
- B. The cost of presenting God's whole counsel (**Ac. 20:27**) has been know to include...
1. occasional threats, **Ac. 4:18** – *they commanded them not to speak at all....*
 2. false accusations, as in case of Stephen, **Ac. 6:13**
 3. being at odds with those to whom you tell the truth, **Gal. 4:16**
 4. sometimes being run out of town under the cover of darkness, **Ac. 9:22, 25**
 5. As costly as it was for Paul (c. **2 Cor 11:23-28**), being God's servant was the gtest bargain, **Phil. 3:8**
- C. **Elders** have an interesting perspective on the investment they make, & the cost of their service.

1. The souls under their care may submit willingly, or rebelliously, making the elders job pleasant or grievous, **Heb. 13:17**
2. There are sleepless nights, like those described by the Psalmist David, **Psa. 6:6**
3. As an elder & an apostle, Peter spoke about *suffering* in the line of duty as a Christian, **2 Pet. 4:16fff**
- D. **Godly parents & grandparents** have to pay the price of nurturing young people in God's ways:
 1. Proper training of our children requires diligence, patience, conviction, firmness, flexibility, love & prayer, **Prov. 1:7-19;**
 2. **Prov. 13:24** spare rod = hate son, love = correct him early on & earnestly
 3. **Prov. 29:17** *Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.*
 4. **2 Tim 1:5 & 3:15** => Parents & grandparents can teach their children scriptures that lead to salvation
- E. **Young Christians** must pay the price to prevent older folks from *despising their youth*.
 1. Need to *remember your Creator in the days of your youth*, **Ecc. 12:1**
 2. The price paid in living faithful to God & respectful to your parents is well worth it, especially when you look at the cost of rebellion, **Prov. 30:17.**

Concl.

- A. In a moment we will be asking each other a question in the song selected for the Lord's invitation.
- B. This very hour, *Have You Counted the Cost if your soul should be lost????*
 1. We pray that your are doing that right now!
 2. There is a price to pa to be successful in every area of life, & Christianity is no different.
- C. The cost begins with you deciding to obey the gospel, & then to follow Jesus anywhere He leads.
 1. There is a price to pay regardless of your age or circumstances.
 2. Some try to avoid answering the cost counting question,.....
Rev 21:8 *But the cowardly... shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*
 3. As we stand together, please answer the question in the very best way for your soul's sake.