

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Not for Sale

By Derek Long

Recently I was watching a television show where one of the characters said they would not sell something. When someone offered them what seemed to be a large sum of money for the object, they were willing to sell what was previously said to be not for sale. Our society seems to think anything is subject to be sold if enough money is offered for it. However, the Bible teaches us there are some things which should not be for sale.

Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding" (NKJV). Truth is something valuable. Its value can be seen in what the truth is able to accomplish. Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32, NKJV). He also said, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17, NKJV). Truth is valuable because it has the ability to set us free from sin and sanctify us. Truth must be bought though. One buys the truth in part by having a love for the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10). One also must be diligent to study

the word of God in order to buy the truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Buying the truth basically describes the process of acquiring the truth. After we have bought (acquired) the truth, Proverbs 23:23 teaches us not to sell it. It must be possible to sell the truth if the Bible warns us of such. In fact, James 5:19-20 speaks about people who wander from the truth. They possessed the truth but wandered from it for some reason. Not only is it possible to sell the truth but it is something people might become tempted to do. Jesus in the parable of the sower describes people who we could say sold the truth. He says, “But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away” (Luke 8:13, NKJV). Here were people who had the truth but allowed themselves to sell it because holding onto the truth would result in them facing temptation or tribulation because of the word of God. If we are people who possess the truth, are we willing to sell the truth? Would we sell the truth if people no longer wanted to hear the truth (2 Timothy 4:1-4)? Would we sell the truth if the truth condemned a close family member or a dear friend (Luke 14:26)? Would we sell the truth if the truth required me to give up something I enjoyed doing? Remember there are some who do not believe the truth because they have pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thessalonians 2:12). There are people who want nothing to do with the truth because the truth exposes their sinful conduct (John 3:19-21). Would we sell the truth if speaking the truth and following the truth caused people to view us as their enemies (Galatians 4:16)? Truth should not be for sale no matter what it is the devil might offer us in exchange for the truth.

Another thing which should not be for sale is our integrity. Proverbs 28:6 says, “Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich” (NKJV). Integrity is, “the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness” ([google.com](https://www.google.com)). People have described integrity as doing the right thing even when others do not notice or perhaps you could “get away” with doing the wrong thing. 2 Peter 1:5-7 mentions the quality of “virtue,” which could also be described as “moral courage.” Will we do the right thing no matter what it costs? Will we continue to do the right thing even if someone offers us something in order to compromise our principles and do what is sinful? When Satan tempted Jesus, he offered Jesus, “all the kingdoms of the world and their glory” (Matthew 4:8-9), if Jesus would worship him. Jesus, of course, resists such an offer and holds fast to His integrity. Would we be willing to lie if it could help us save some money? Would we be willing to engage in immoral activities if it would help us financially? Would we be willing to compromise with sin in order to enhance our standing in the community? Let’s make sure we value being right with God more than we value what this world might offer us (Matthew 16:26). Our integrity needs to not be for sale!