

# LIVING WATERS NEWSLETTER

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## SOMETHING FOR SOMETHING (QUID PRO QUO # 2)

Quid pro quo is a Latin term for "something for something" that originated in the Middle Ages in Europe. It describes a situation when two parties engage in a reciprocal exchange. One transfer is thus contingent upon some transfer from the other party. Satan is an expert at quid pro quo; however he is a deceiver and what he has for exchange is a deception and a lie, yet he has used it very effectively against the people of God, beginning with Eve, "something given," his advice, she would not die, (Gen. 3:4) exchanged for her disobedience to God's warning she would surely die. He offered Jesus "the kingdoms of this world" in exchange for his worship; (Luke 4:6). Satan has been very successful through the years in practicing quid pro quo against the church. In this article we will note some of the common Satanic exchanges engineered by Satan which have been virtually unknown or ignored by the church.

Let's begin with Satan's quid pro quo that failed with Jesus but has been very successful with the church—**his offer of worship in Spirit and truth, anywhere and anytime, exchanged for limited worship in the church building, performed on Sunday morning at 8:30 or 11:00 A.M.** The important question today in regard to worship is not whether it is contemporary or traditional, whether we use an organ or a guitar, songbooks or overhead projectors, shaped notes, or no notes, but is it Biblical? Our service of worship does not end at the close of a meeting, rather it only begins there. Jesus, in John 4:20-24, instead of naming a place to which pilgrims should go to worship, says that the true place of worship is in the Spirit and Truth. So all true worship is worship that is lived in the sphere of God's Holy Spirit. Then we have the admonition: "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." The parallel passage in Colossians states that we are to teach and admonish one another with songs hymns and spiritual songs. Singing then is a part of worship and is not to create a special mood or the right atmosphere or give us a good feeling. One of the purposes of singing is to teach and admonish one another. Our songs then should be as Biblical as our preaching.

Another thought concerning Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 is that Paul is not referring to singing in a "worship service," rather individually in our daily walk. This is not to say we are not to assemble together as a church. The New Testament has much to say about our meeting together (Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42, 46; 20:7, 11; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 14:23,24; 1 Cor. 5:4) and it is important that we "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together," but this in no way constitutes all our worship of God. None of these passages teach their purpose is to hold a worship service, though we do worship when we come together. Worship is not a ritual performed on Sunday morning but rather worship is presenting our body a living sacrifice to God in our daily walk with Him, twenty-four hours a day.

There is much confusion about worship. As our friend, the late Curtis Dickinson, wrote in *The Witness*: "In studying this subject I was surprised to learn that not once in the N.T. does it say that God's

people ever came together to worship. The assembly was never called a 'worship service' and people are never spoken of as 'worshiping.' This is not to say they did not worship as they assembled. My guess is that they did, but you won't find it in Scripture. They did not have 'houses of worship' in the modern sense. They met in homes, or public places, and we have no clue as to an 'order of service' in their meetings. Our worship services are derived from five sources: Old Testament temple worship, Roman Catholicism, passed through the Reformation; pagan practices of which were never fully abandoned by converts; some New Testament practices; and the format for many of today's worship services that seem to be copied from the theater (T. V. and movies etc.). Some go to church to escape from reality which they find in exciting church programs."

Another Satanic quid pro quo is that Satan has exchanged **pure religion (James 1:27) for the war on poverty.** Christ's ministry was not confined to evangelism, as important as that was, he goes beyond that when he applies the words of Isaiah to his ministry. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight for the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favor of the Lord" (Luke 4:18, 19). Hospitality and caring for the needy is a common theme throughout the Scriptures both in the Old and New Testaments. The law made provision for the needy (Leviticus 19:9, 10), "Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard, you shall leave them for the needy and the stranger. I am the Lord our God." And Deuteronomy 24:20-22: "When you beat your olive tree, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not go over it again; it shall be for the orphan, and for the widow." The book of Ruth is an example of how this worked. The book of Proverbs states it in these terms: "he who despises his neighbor sins, but happy she who is gracious to the poor." (14:21), "He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered" (21:13). The Old Testament is replete with stories of hospitality being extended in the home to strangers and the needy.

In the New Testament is the record of individual households offering hospitality (Acts 9:42; 10:48; 16:14, 15; 18:1-3), but also the whole church providing hospitality (Acts 2:42-47; 20:7-11; 1 Cor. 11:17-22). The Christian's responsibility to practice hospitality and care for the needy was not confined to believers, but was extended to the world. "So then as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). "...and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another and for all men (1 Thess. 3:12). Christine Pohl writes in her book *Making Room*: "Offering hospitality in a world distorted by sin, injustice, and brokenness will rarely be easy. We need a combination of grace and wisdom. Substantial hospitality to

strangers involves spiritual and more intuition, prayer, and dependence on the Holy Spirit, the accumulated wisdom of tradition, and pragmatic assessment of situation."

Enter Satan's quid pro quo: In the state of the Union message in 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared an "unconditional war on Poverty." Almost immediately, the full energies of the most powerful nation on earth were marshaled against the dark denizens of privation and want. And the church bought it. J. Peter Grace in *Burning Money* wrote: "By the time President Johnson relinquished the reins of power to Richard Nixon in 1969, the 'war on poverty' had assumed an immutable twenty-five percent of the gross national product." Like all of Satan's deals, this exchange was a deception. Francis A. Schaeffer stated: "It was the failure of the church to practice community—first in its own circle but also to the neighbor—that really opened the door to much of the state's taking over what, in reality, the church should have done." In his book *Bringing In The Sheaves* George Grant declared: "America's 'war on poverty' is a dismal failure. The federally funded welfare program has become an incessant reminder that gross mismanagement, fiscal irresponsibility, misappropriated authority, and escalating calamity are inevitable results of a society that attempts to solve complex problems apart from the instruction of Scripture. Welfare is not essentially or primarily the government's job. It never has been, and it never will be. Welfare is our job. It is the job of the Christians. According to the clear instruction of Scripture, there is only one way to win the 'war on poverty'—get the government out of primary welfare provisions. And get the church back in it."

The massive welfare entitlements which the government instituted are an infringement upon both the family and the church and have caused both the family and the church to be negligent in their responsibility; (II Thess. 3:10). The massive government welfare programs have assumed the responsibility given to the family and the church. The state has no responsibility where God has given the family and the church. The church is not to assume responsibilities in political matters given the state. Herbert Schlossberg in *Idols For Destruction* stated: "Judgment falls in ways that are appropriate to the evil that provokes it. Our policies of greed have brought an end to the increase in wealth to which we have become accustomed, and we have begun to destroy the capital resources that have taken three centuries to build. In so doing we have spurned the biblical principle that we are stewards. Ancient Israel and Judah committed similar deeds, and the prophetic voice raised at that time warned them that their crimes would call forth judgment." These words were written in 1983 and seem to be a prophecy of what is happening today.

Another Satan's quid pro quo is he has **exchanged going to Heaven for the resurrection**. This is one of his oldest and most effective ploys. Hebrews 2:15 states that many "...through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." God has provided answers to the unsettled questions concerning the topic of death. He has stated in the word that He does not want us "to be uniformed (ignorant, KJV) about those who are asleep (I Thess. 4:13). The Apostle Paul further states: "Behold I tell you a mystery, we shall not all sleep..." (I Cor. 15:51). The mysteries of the New Testament have been revealed and what was a mystery under the Jewish system has been explained and what happens at death is no longer a mystery.

However, everything that God says is contradicted by Satan, who "is a liar and the father of liars" (Jn.8:44). The first recorded words of Satan were the lie he told Eve in the garden when he convinced her that, although God had warned Adam and Eve that they would die if they partook of the forbidden fruit, he assured her that "...*You will not surely die.*" (Gen. 3:4). This lie brought both spiritual and physical death upon all mankind and death is still a mystery to most people but should not be a mystery to Christians. However, the ancient pagan Greek philosophy that taught man has an immortal soul caught on, and by the third century it had been harmonized into a watered-down Christianity, despite not being found in the Bible. Over the centuries outrageous falsehoods have been attached to this grievous doctrine. The vast majority of churches today have embraced this doctrine that originated in the garden by Satan, and death is not looked upon as an enemy (I Cor. 15:26), but as a door to a better life. The idea that there is no such thing as death is a favorite doctrine within most religious circles today and is advocated by the majority of the "men of the cloth" who fill our pulpits (if the church still has a pulpit). Many grieving loved ones are assured at funerals that the deceased "is now enjoying a better life in the presence of God." This is a denial that death is real and assures them that their loved one is not really dead.

Further, in speaking of the believer, the Apostle Paul shows it is at resurrection, when the last trumpet sounds and the dead are raised, that they receive immortality. I Corinthians 15:51-54: "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, death is swallowed up in victory." Many who pride themselves in being "Born Again, Fundamentalist, Evangelical, Bible believing (King James Version only) Christians," and most modern, main stream, seminary educated Pastors who still profess to be giving attention to the scriptures, will say that Paul in this passage is speaking of the body only, and the "immortal soul" has been with the Lord and here "God is bringing them with him" (I Thess. 4:14) to be re-united with the body. If the soul is immortal and has been existing in a disembodied state in Paradise or Heaven, how can the believer "put on immortality" if it is already enjoying immortality in the presence of the Lord?

The Scriptures do not speak of "going to heaven but the Apostles spoke of a treasure being prepared now with God in heaven" (Matt. 6:20; 19:21), a reward "reserved in heaven" as "a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:4, 5), at Christ's return to earth. The promise of a life after death is never said to be "going to heaven," rather "inheriting or entering the kingdom" (Matt.25:34; Gal. 5:21; I Cor. 6:9; Eph. 5:5). In II Peter 1:11 after listing some spiritual qualities that should be evident in every believer's life he states: "In this way the entrance into the *eternal Kingdom* will be abundantly supplied to you."

Satan's quid pro quo only works when we neglect the Scriptures.

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