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Sunday School Times

# Can You Afford to be a Christian?

***Stuff For Today***

• Bob the Square!

• The Pineapple Story

Published almost weekly, but more like…..whenever, so get used to it, OK?

**By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com**

***Luke 14:33***

***So, likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.***

Jesus is unashamed and unafraid of telling us up front the “worst” — the painful cost of being a Christian: hating family (verse 26), carrying a cross (verse 27), renouncing possessions (verse 33). There is no small print in the covenant of grace. It is all big, and bold. No cheap grace! Very costly! Come, and be my disciple.

But Satan hides his worst and shows only his best. All that really matters in the deal with Satan is in small print on the back page.

On the front page in big, bold letters are the words, “You will not surely die” ([Genesis 3:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%203.4" \t "_blank)), and “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me” ([Matthew 4:9](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%204.9" \t "_blank)). But on the back page in small print — so small you can only read it with the magnifying glass of the Bible — it says, “And after the fleeting pleasures, you will suffer with me forever in hell.”

Why is Jesus willing to show us his “worst” as well as his best, while Satan will only show us his best? Matthew Henry answers, “Satan shows the best, but hides the worst, because his best will not counterbalance his worst; but Christ’s will abundantly.”

The call of Jesus is not just a call to suffering and self-denial; it is first a call to a banquet. This is the point of the parable in [Luke 14:16–24](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2014.16%E2%80%9324" \t "_blank). Jesus also promises a glorious resurrection where all the losses of this life will be repaid ([Luke 14:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2014.14" \t "_blank)). He also tells us that he will help us endure the hardships ([Luke 22:32](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2022.32" \t "_blank)). He also tells us our Father will give us the Holy Spirit ([Luke 11:13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2011.13" \t "_blank)). He promises that even if we are killed for the kingdom, “not a hair of your head will perish” ([Luke 21:18](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2021.18" \t "_blank)).

Which means that when we sit down to calculate the cost of following Jesus — when we weigh the “worst” and the “best” — he is worth it. Abundantly worth it.

Not so with Satan. Stolen bread is sweet, but afterward the mouth is full of gravel ([Proverbs 20:17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Prov%2020.17" \t "_blank)).

What can we afford? We can afford everything in Christ. To be His disciple is the greatest and best calling for any and all of us. Will it be easy? Maybe not. Will it be worth it? Absolutely, without any doubts whatsoever.

**Wartime Disciples**

Paul reminded us quite plainly that we are in a spiritual war. We fight very real battles against very real adversaries with very real consequences.

As I read and study history, I have been reminded that war, even sometimes just the threat of war, can unite a country in ways that nothing else can.

In the aftermath of 911 and the attacks upon this nation by terrorist organizations, I saw an overwhelming resurgence in patriotism and coming together of disparate peoples. Pickups and cars flew the US flag proudly, bumper stickers proclaimed our unity as a nation. We came together to fight a common enemy.

So it should be with the Christian community. We cannot as a church continue in a laissez-faire state of mind. We are, after all, at war. And the stakes cannot be higher.

In WW2, we heard stories of the “underground” working to undermine the Nazi take over of Germany. Where are our people getting together at night to plan the following day’s attacks?

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**Here and There in the News This Week**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

U.S.—As many people in the nation prepare to celebrate Halloween, experts are cautioning the nation that some people may be handing out candy corn along with actual candy this year. A report issued by government officials stated that many individuals may try to slip candy corn into your children's candy bags. "It appears many people are planning on putting small bags of candy corn in with the actual candy," said a CDC official. "Remember to check your kids' bags before they accidentally chew on the wax-flavored globs of disgustingness." Warning signs that your kids may have inadvertently ingested candy corn include a look of revulsion on their faces, and yelling, "Hey, why does this candy taste like I'm chewing on a crayon?" "Know the warning signs and educate your kids," the CDC official added. "If they see a stranger handing out candy corn, remind them to run away and alert a law enforcement official." At publishing time, CDC officials had also warned parents to look out for flavorless Circus Peanuts.

**A Scripture Reading For Halloween**

***Exodus 7***

***9****“When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.”*

***10****So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake.****11****Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts:****12****Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs*

**Next Week**

Have you ever had a question about God, the Bible, church or religion in general? Well, you are in luck. Once per semester Mr. Lyle allows you to write down one question—anonymously—and he will take time during class and attempt to answer your questions. No topic is off the table. So if you ever wanted to know, but were afraid to ask—here’s your chance. And if it takes several weeks to get through them all, that’s ok.