



Pastor's Comments

In large print at:
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Trade Gold for Life?

During the California "Gold Rush," many people left the confines of safe and quiet dwellings **to get rich quick**. In spite of many dangers involved, people piled their possessions in covered wagons, broke trails over the plains, fought hostile Indians, endured thirst in the desert, saw loved ones die, and continued to hope for a **sudden "strike."** Only a few were successful.

On one occasion, a man **found a lot of gold** and decided to come back east to spend it and live in luxury and style. He wanted to be envied by those who were not brave enough to endure all the hardship. As he and others were crossing the Mississippi River in a "side-wheeler" it struck a rock and began to sink. The accident occurred close enough to shore to allow many who could swim to reach land and save themselves. However, many did drown, among them the man who had struck it rich. Strangely, he was known to have been an excellent swimmer. When his body was recovered it was discovered that around his waist he had a belt of many pockets, all **crammed with gold** nuggets. The weight of the **gold had dragged him down**. He could have removed the belt, but **he did not want to give up the wealth**. He allowed it to carry him down to a watery grave.

Many today behave just like that man! Becoming so attached to their material possessions, and worldly pursuits, **they lose the most precious possession** given to man – **his everlasting soul**. Many become so engrossed in finding the "pot of gold" that **any ideal of value is shoved aside**, and interest in **God is forgotten**. In Mark 8:36-37, Jesus asked, **"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"**

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