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The Need for More

The expression ‘shop `til you drop’ may raise a smile, but also some searching questions about our society.

More and more of us seem to have an inner compulsion to shop... driven to buy even those things we don’t really need.

For some, the shopping trip has become just that... a form of drug through which the act of ‘retail therapy’ meets some greater need in our daily living.

Of course, the feeling that there’s something missing in our lives is right... there is!

However,
‘compensatory
acquisition’ is not
the answer. We
need to look in a
different direction
altogether...



Outward Appearance

How easily optional extras become basic necessities in our search for pleasure, satisfaction and fulfilment. To know we look good makes us feel good... to be fashionable is to be attractive.

Yet God sees us very differently...

*People look at the outward appearance, but the
LORD looks at the heart.*

1 Samuel 16:7



No matter how sophisticated we may seem, He sees us as we really are...
and He knows about the things we’d be ashamed to admit...

*...sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and
greed, which is idolatry.*

Colossians 3:5

Lasting Impression

Our clothes, our hair, our shoes... all calculated to impact others. However, when living to please ourselves and rejecting God's right to order our lives, the impression we make on Him has totally undesirable consequences...

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23

One day we'll all be called to give account...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

...and even the best of us will fall short of the standard He has set...

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:23

...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...

Isaiah 64:6

Thankfully, God has already provided a priceless 'rescue package'...



Special Offer

We're all attracted to a special offer... though there is one, the value of which is beyond our wildest imagination...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

This is the result of the greatest transaction of all...

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

...to make it possible for us to find peace with God...

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18

Of course, His 'special offer' is available in only one way – through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who says...

I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6



True Cost

With credit so accessible today it's easy to run up huge debts. On the Cross of Calvary, Christ Jesus died in our place, taking the punishment we deserve. He paid a debt He didn't owe, to satisfy a debt we could never pay!

But the 'benefits' are not thrust upon us. In response to this act of pure love, we're called to turn away from all we know to be wrong...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...

1 Peter 2:24



And in asking the risen Christ Jesus into our lives to become our Lord and Saviour we're given a new start, along with the motivation and power to live a new lifestyle – pleasing to Him.

...if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

He also promises that true and lasting fulfilment we all need so badly...

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

Asking Price

Anything of real value usually has a hefty price tag.

Yet peace with God comes as a free gift when we abandon our self-centred living and place our future under His authority and control.

However, although He has already paid the ultimate price for us there is still a cost in becoming one of His true followers...

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23



Every shopping trip presents us with decisions.

Yet the most vital decision we will ever make is in response to the Lord Jesus Christ who says...

Whoever is not with me is against me...

Matthew 12:30

Even in making no decision we've made a 'no' decision...

...whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18

However, if we reach out to Him today we'll find He's already reaching out to us.