

## Addendum to the December Press

# The Best \$9 Investment

By CH\*

With Christmas fast approaching, the American tradition is often full of family celebrations—and this is a wonderful thing! But for many Christians, it can also be hard to celebrate while knowing that loved ones—even our own offspring—are not joyfully walking with Jesus. In light of this painful reality, I put forth a holiday challenge: plan a simple date/outing with one of your spiritually-lost loved ones.

The path of least resistance may in fact be to buy an expensive gift they may want. And yet, it is ironically quite difficult to spend \$9 in the Starbucks drive-through with that same child (or sibling), and engage in a heart-level spiritual conversation. But I am suggesting—in line with orders from our King—that this is the greater gift that we must aim for.

Consider—those of us with children (or grandchildren, or great-grandchildren!), when is the last time we scheduled time for a deep heart-to-heart talk with one of our wayward offspring? When I was 25 years old my dad invited me, for the first time, to the local coffee shop to simply sit and talk intentionally together about my relationship with the Lord Jesus. This was a huge breakthrough. My dad was “splurging” (i.e. spending money on something that wasn’t absolutely necessary), but more importantly he was attempting to connect with me emotionally and spiritually. Yahoo!

If we’re honest with ourselves about the lay-of-the-land, most of us have children or family members who have backslid or even walked away

from the Lord Jesus. Why did this happen? There are thousands of possible reasons. A common one that comes to mind is that we have wrongly assumed that our youth (or loved ones) understood or embraced the true Gospel. Regardless of church attendance, we mustn’t assume spiritual growth—honest, heart-level and gospel-centered conversations are a discipleship must.

So whoever we find ourselves with this holiday season, my exhortation is this: In addition to that physical gift we may want to buy our kids or loved ones, let us also be courageous and schedule a date/outing where we will talk about meaningful topics—such as each other’s spiritual journey or faith struggles we may be experiencing.

In order to succeed in this we will likely have to get out of our comfort zone, go out on a limb, embody Christ-like boldness, and engage on a deeper-than-normal level. But for Christ’s sake, and for the sake of generations to come, it is worth it.

I can guarantee it will be the best \$9 investment we make this season.



Merry  
Christmas!