

A BILLION DOLLAR MISTAKE

My youngest daughter professionally videotapes weddings and other events. Once Steve Wozniak, who co-founded Apple computers with Steve Jobs, was in Kansas City giving a series of workshops. My daughter was the one asked to videotape his talks. She said he tells of a time when Apple computers were just getting off the ground, that one of their investors got cold feet and decided to cut his losses and he sold ten percent ownership in Apple Computers for two-hundred dollars. Can you imagine what ten percent ownership in Apple Computers would be worth today with all of their computers, laptops, smart phones, iPads, tablets and other devices? He would probably be worth billions.

Just the thought of such a loss would make most of us sick. It is hard to imagine a greater monetary loss, yet Jesus described an even greater loss when He said, "*What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?*"

When I read the Bible I try to read it in 3-D. By that I mean I try to visualize and feel whatever is being read. A few months ago there was a wonderful movie called "*I Can Only Imagine.*" It was the true life story about the man who wrote the best selling song by the same title where he tried to imagine what entering Heaven for the first time would be like. Now let me ask you this: Have you ever truly contemplated what the first five minutes in hell will feel like? I literally cannot fathom anything more terrifying than to be cast into outer darkness at the exact same moment the fires of hell engulfing one's soul, where Jesus says there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth forever and ever, where one will be alone (I assume) with only their thoughts and pain. Just as Jesus bore our sins upon the cross, those in hell will carry the weight of their own sin as they drink the cup of God's just wrath.

When I think of people whom I know and love being cast into hell it almost turns my stomach. I don't know who the person was who sold ten percent ownership in Apple Computers for two hundred dollars, but pity the person who forfeits his or her own soul and loses eternal life in Heaven.