Almost, But Lost

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Acts 26:27-28, "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

King Agrippa was like a lot of people, from his day unto our day. He almost believed enough to confess Jesus as Lord. Why didn't he do it? For one thing he knew that to do so would cost him and he didn't want to pay the price. Although a pupif he became a Christian he would not be allowed to continue as king. That was a price that he was not willing to pay.

to give up the things that they like to do and miss the pleasures that they enjoy. They know that some of the things that they like are wrong, but still they hang on to them. Salvation, eterit comes down to it the world just means too much to them. and power that it brought. Nevertheless among the chief rul- of how someone else is living, we'll be doing better.

Can this be what makes some to become hypocrites? They want to be followers of Jesus, but they also want the things of the world that they like, so they try to follow both ways. So instead of having the best of both, they lose both and are miserable. In Matthew 6:24 Jesus said that no man could this king, believing but not willing to make the commitment to serve two masters. The Lord will have all of our love, faith, and Christ and be saved. obedience, or he will have none of them. God is master of our life, all of our life, or he is not at all. To be almost saved is to be of worshipping God. They may go to services, sing, and give totally lost.

pet king, controlled by Rome, he was still a king. He knew that that we love him the same way. The same for faith, we either who has lived a sinful life may have repented, came to Jesus A lot of people would confess Jesus as Lord if they could one falls through a person moves on to another. For many that of salvation. If he never truly repented he would be like the still live like they do now. They are afraid that they would have works in this world, but it will not work in a relationship with Pharisee in Luke 18. Leaving the house of God with the same God. To believe in him and to serve him is to be completely sins that he came with. committed to him.

nal life, and heaven sounds so good to them but these things Jews. Paul said that he knew that Agrippa believed the prophseem so far away while they like the pleasures of this world ets which meant that he believed what they said about the time that men stopped looking at others and looked at themhere and now. Like the rich man that came to Jesus they are in-coming Savior. He believed but not enough that he was going selves. God will look at the other person and judge. If we look terested but when faced with the decision they go away. When to give up his place in the government, along with the wealth to the Lord and confess our sins and faults instead of thinking

ers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John 12:42-43. So many people have been like

People then, and now, have went through the motions an offering, but still not give the Lord their heart and love. God will not accept part of our love and faith. He is pos- Some may compare themselves to others and think that they sessive of his children and as he loves us totally he demands have not done as bad in life. While that may be true, the one trust him without reservation, or we don't have faith in him at and been saved. But the person who had done few bad things all. In this life we deal with relationships that give and take. If in life may have never believed that he was a sinner in need

A person can't think that he is better than someone else King Agrippa knew the law, prophets, and customs of the because of that person's life. We, each of us, have had our sins and without the forgiveness of the Lord we would be lost. It is

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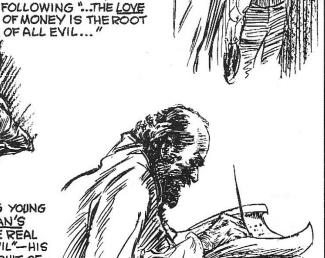
Facts About 1

MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL — WRONG!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE HEARD THIS SAID AND ACCEPTED IT WITH NO FURTHER THOUGHT? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE SEEN IT HANGING AS A MOTTO ON A WALL OR OVERHEARD A GRANDFATHER INTONE IT SAGELY TO SOME YOUNGSTER? HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS OF TIMES—AFTER ALL. IT'S STRAIGHT OUT OF THE BIBLE, RIGHT?! BUT FEW OFUS HAVE EVER REALIZED IT'S A BLATANT MISQUOTE!



IN OTHER WORDS, PAUL WAS ADVISING YOUNG TIMOTHY THAT NOT MONEY ITSELF, BUT MAN'S INNATE GREED OR DESIRE FOR IT, WAS THE REAL TROUBLE-MAKER, THE REAL "ROOT OF ALL EVIL"—HIS FURTHER ADVICE WAS TO FOREGO THE PURSUIT OF GREAT WEALTH AND LUXURY AND RATHER BEND ALL EFFORTS TOWARDS A SEARCH FOR WISDOM AND A PURER LIFE DEDICATED TO GOD.



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