



6th June 2005

Welcome to

# Wake Up Call

your weekly email support from WorkNet

## You Have Heard It Said: Part 6 - Paying a Price

**Memo-we are still looking for an assistant to Geoff Shattock and Projects Manager-  
Please see news section.**

When purchasing products or services you may have justified paying a higher price, using the phrase "you get what you pay for". Behind this, of course, is the idea that if the price is low then the quality or quantity will also be inadequate and poor standards will come as a given.

This attitude also extends to a way of thinking about putting in effort in work and life. You put in the energy and commitment and pay your dues and have every right to expect just rewards for your endeavours. In fact it would be seen to be ridiculous to expect such rewards to be delivered automatically without payment.

This same idea is built into pricing policy. "I charge high prices because I give good service" or "we cost more than others because of the quality of our raw materials and skills of our workforce" and so it goes on. Christians too, have a sense that God's favour is handled in a similar way to this system. Citing David's statement, "I will not sacrifice to the Lord that which costs me nothing", there is an operating belief that one invests in the Kingdom and rewards follow.

While it is undoubtedly true that there are links between costs or charges and quality, it is a risky business to apply such rules to the Divine economy.

From the starting line, according to Paul, our standing before God as Christians is not related to our work, payment or effort. There is no room for boasting, confidence or demanding rewards. The dynamics in this process are to do with grace and faith.

Second, we are not self-made, picked by our own bootlaces, owe nobody anything people, rather we are made, equipped and gifted by God.

Third, we are not on a self-determined, ambition-fuelled career path to fulfil our selfish agendas, we are called to a Divine agenda which is in fact both good and rewarding.

The problem we encounter in this Divine system is that we don't have the currency with which to pay for that which we want. We are called to trust and serve purposes which although related to who we are, are not ours to own.

The truth is, we don't get what we pay for. We cannot pay for our salvation, but we get it anyway. We cannot pay for the kindness of God, but He still gives it. No matter how hard we work, we cannot earn God's favour, but He gives it freely to us. The deeper truth is that we get far more than we pay for. We get what we don't deserve and we enjoy benefits way beyond our costs. For Christians, I would suggest these benefits show themselves not just in the long-term future, but in our



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day to day working. God gives us the grace to live and work in the realities of our lives. Thankfully, Someone has covered the cost of this generosity.

## **WORK WELL**

Geoff Shattock, National Director

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**Here is some Biblical background for this week's Wake Up Call**

## **Ephesians 2: 8-10**

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

# Wake Up News

Online News

Prayer

Retreats

Group Register

- WorkNet is looking for someone to fulfil the vital role of Assistant to Geoff Shattock and Projects Manager. If you are interested in this post, please send your CV to [geoff@worknetuk.org](mailto:geoff@worknetuk.org) If you know someone who may be interested, please make this important need known to them. A [job description](#) is downloadable from our website.
- The [WorkTalk](#) course is based on the seven sayings of our Lord from the cross. If you haven't got your copy, you can order it now from our [on-line shop](#) and use it for your personal meditation as well as a learning programme.

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