

# Mark 8:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

## Analysis

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What shall man give in exchange for his soul. Rhetorical question. Give *dōsei* pay offer. In exchange *antallagma* substitute price. Soul *psychēs* life eternal destiny. Nothing of equivalent value. Soul is priceless. All worldly gain cannot compensate for lost soul. Eternal realities transcend temporal. Reformed theology emphasizes eternal perspective. This life is brief preparation for eternity. Gain world lose soul is ultimate tragedy. No second chance after death.

## Historical Context

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Context Rich young ruler loved wealth more than Christ (Mark 10). Judas traded Jesus for 30 pieces silver gained money lost soul. Hebrews warns of Esau who sold birthright for meal could not reverse it. Temporal choices have eternal consequences. No purgatory no second chance after death. This life is time for decision. Early church faced this Roman empire offered comfort compromise or suffering faithfulness. Many chose suffering unto death faithful unto death received crown of life (Rev 2:10). Modern consumeristic Christianity sometimes forgets eternal perspective.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What does question about exchanging soul teach about relative value of temporal versus eternal?
2. How should eternal perspective shape daily decisions priorities values?

## Interlinear Text

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| ἢ     | τί    | δώσει | ἄνθρωπος | ἀντάλλαγμα  | τῆς   | ψυχῆς | αὐτοῦ |
| Or    | what  | give  | a man    | in exchange | G3588 | soul  | G846  |
| G2228 | G5101 | G1325 | G444     | G465        |       | G5590 |       |

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