The most recent issue (as of the date of this writing) of Time magazine has within it a sidebar entitled “Giving It Away – how some of the wealthiest Americans made their money – and how they spend it.” Seven people are noted with the amount they have given and for what cause: Bill and Melinda Gates, worth 72 billion, “gave $26 billion to their foundation from 1994 to 2006. In April [of this year] they pledged to spend $1.8 billion to eradicate polio over the next six years;” one of the Koch brothers who are jointly worth $72 billion, David, “gave more than $300 million to medical research and $65 million to the Metropolitan Museum of Art;” Jim Walton representing the Waltons of Walmart fame, worth $34 billion, has donated more than $608 million to school reform since 2009. In 2012, the family gave $92 million to freshwater and marine conservation;” Michael Bloomberg, worth $31 billion, has donated more than $1 billion to his alma mater Johns Hopkins University and gave $370 million last year to government innovation, public health and the arts;” and, George Soros, worth $20 billion, “spent more than $20 million trying to defeat George W. Bush in ’04 – and gave $100 million to Human Rights Watch.” In summary, the five causes to which these people contributed their billions were education, health, arts, environment, and politics.

We do not dispute that many of these causes are worthy of support. However, it is impossible for those of us who are members of the greatest causes of all: (1) the promotion of Jesus of Nazareth, i.e., making Him known to the world as the Christ; (2) the propagation of His gospel, the only message that is from God and is able to save all men from their sins; and, (3) the populating of His church, the body of Christ that will inherit eternal life, and not note that, at least as far as what has been reported by Time, not one penny has been given to advance any of these great causes. Whether any of these generous persons is a Christian we place in the hands of the Lord judge. If they are we wonder why they do not see the importance of giving similar or even greater amounts to these three causes. If they are not Christians, we are not surprised that these causes have been ignored. Regardless, we ask ourselves, what has their contributions to their pet causes contributed to the most important concern of the human race – that of preparing for death and meeting the God of the universe who owns all that these people temporarily own? As far as what has been reported, not one dime was given to encourage men and women, boys and girls to come to the God before
whom each of these contributors will stand some day.

In contrast to these philanthropists, consider Jesus of Nazareth of Whom it is written in Matthew 8:20 and Luke 9:58 that, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Apostle Paul tell us in II Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." Jesus, born in a stable and buried in a borrowed tomb had nothing to give to the causes heralded by the world as being great and yet He gave more than these people have ever or will ever give in a thousand lifetimes. He gave His life for these celebrated philanthropists and all others of the human race, both rich and poor. Jesus said in John 15:13 that this is the greatest of all philanthropic acts. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." This He was determined to do. Three times in John 10 He said that this He would do. In John 10:15 and John 10:17 He said, "I lay down my life for the sheep" and in John 10:18 He announced concerning His life, "I lay it down of Myself." Each of the synoptic writers made known that Jesus said this was the purpose for His coming. Matthew 20:25 and Mark 10:45 record Jesus saying, "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many." Luke reminds us that Jesus said "...the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

The Gates, the Koch brothers, the Waltons, the Bloombergs, and the Soroses are admired and highly esteemed for their philanthropy but not one of them, nor their incredible riches, can solve the sin problem that men have. Not one of them has gone to a cross on Calvary. Not one of them can save one man's soul. In spite of that, they are applauded. They are prestigious and powerful. They are celebrated in all of media, not just Time magazine.

But you and I have come to this Table to honor and worship the One Who is greater than any one of these celebrities and all combined. His name is Jesus of Nazareth. He did not have billions to give; He had only His blood to save billions. He did not have billions to give; He had only one body to save billions. His offering, His work of philanthropy, has saved millions from a godless hell and has been the means through which countless reprobates have been changed into saints; countless acts of debauchery have been forgiven; countless persons in poverty have been made rich. This One Who "is despised and rejected by men;" Who is "despised" and not esteemed; Who "was oppressed and...afflicted;" Who was "bruised for our iniquities" "acquainted with grief" and made to be an offering for the sin and bore the sin of many has been "highly exalted" by God. And we, in the best way we know how, wish to exalt Him at His Table by remembering Him and His eternal gift to us, the forgiveness of our sins.

---

**PRAYER**

Our God and our Father, You have taught us to be content "in whatever state" we find ourselves. You have assured us that we shall always have the necessities of life: our food, our
clothing, and our shelter. But You have given us much more – the forgiveness of our sins by the atoning work of our Lord Jesus, the Christ, on the cross. Forgive us when we forget this. Forgive us when we look at the rich and want what they have. Forgive us when we are not satisfied with our “lot” in life. It is at times like this that You bring us back to spiritual sanity. We love you, O God, because You have given us, by Your grace, our salvation. We ask that You accept our prayer that is offered in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.