

WHAT IS IT WORTH TO BE NUMBER ONE?

Eddy Gilpin – Elder/Preacher

In the sporting world there is seemingly always a story about someone violating the rules in order to get ahead. It's either a college program being investigated by the NCAA, or a professional player involved in performance - enhancing drugs, or a race crew tampering with the specifications laid down by NASCAR.

The price to be the best is seemingly without limits in the minds of some. This truth was made even more apparent last week when a businessman from the United Arab Emirates bid and shelled out \$14 million for a license plate bearing the number "1." That's right—\$14 million!

There was nothing special about the plate other than the fact that it bore the number one. It wasn't gold plated, silver lined or platinum coated. It was a simple, common license plate for his car. About it, the purchaser, Saeed Abdel Ghaffar Khouri, said, "The price is fair. After all, who among us does not want to be number one?" He said he was willing to go as high as \$27.4 million in order to obtain it. He said that it was not a huge sum "compared to my family's fortune."

Being number one is more important than anything to some. They are consumed with being the best. While there is nothing wrong with seeking to be the best at what we do or in displaying that in some fashion, the extremes to which some go give us pause and make us wonder.

Spiritually speaking, being the best we can be means that we are redeemed, washed clean in the blood of Christ (I Peter 1:18, 19; Rev. 1:5). We are nothing in and of ourselves, but we are perfected through Him (Heb. 10:14; I John 2:5), sanctified and made suitable for the Master's use (I Corinthians 6:11; II Timothy 2:21; Hebrews 10:10).

Being the best we can be spiritually is far more important than being number one in any other area. It cost the Lord His blood to make you the best you can be. What is that sacrifice worth to you?