

The Value of a Christian Life

Lesson prepared for the 2018 Winter Bible Studies

Fairview Memorial MBC

February 27, 2018

Elder Douglas Skinner

Introduction

- a. Leonardo Da Vinci's Salvator Mundi sold for \$450 million in November of 2017
- b. 1 Bitcoin was valued at \$17,900 in December 2017; \$6200 earlier this month
- c. Land in Hong Kong costs over \$49,000 per acre (Monaco more)

NONE of these things have any value to the deceased

The value of our life is priceless: it's a non-renewable resource, a finite quantity, has eternal ramifications attached to it, is personal and our Creator has granted us free will over it.

Scripture lesson: **Psalm 90:1-12** (Moses)

I. Our Natural Life's Value

- a. God created all life and it is precious in His sight. Every person's life has value (relative worth, merit or importance) to God as He is not a respecter of persons (**Acts 10:34**). Although men sometimes seek to devalue others while vaunting themselves, God continues to hold and love us all equally even in our depraved state.
- b. Life is the vehicle for our soul. The true value which we possess is found in our soul which is immortal in nature and created in our first father (**Genesis 2:7**). The soul, as housed in human flesh temporarily, has a value beyond value making it priceless (**Matthew 16:26**). The eternal nature of our souls make salvation or redemption from our sin, as made available by Christ, THE issue of this life (**Luke 12:16-21; John 3:16-18; Acts 4:12**).
- c. Natural life provides us the opportunity to secure eternal life. Our flesh will return to the dust (**Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7**), but our souls are immortal. They will live in heaven with Christ or exist in hell with sin for eternity. Thus, our souls and their eternal salvation are our first priority in this life. Therefore, our natural life's value is first and foremost our opportunity for seeking and finding the Lord as our Savior.
- d. Life affords us the opportunity to serve and glorify God (**Psalm 116:12,16**)

Facts about our natural life:

- 1. It is brief **James 4:13-14** | **Peter 1:24**

2. It is a blessing, but we are not guaranteed the blessing of a long life.

Proverbs 16:31 Psalm 90:10

3. It should be numbered; our days are finite. We are to number our days, per Moses' prayer, that we would live wisely with a respect to ever approaching end of our natural life.

Psalm 39:4 Ecclesiastes 3:20

LISTEN!

If this were the only value attached to this life (seeking and finding Jesus), would God not deliver us from this sin-cursed world which is reserved for destruction (II Peter 2:9-10) and take us home to be with Him? Does God enjoy seeing His children suffer?

Why did Jesus say these things to His disciples?

a. **Matthew 5:10-12**

b. **Matthew 10:16-23a**

c. **John 16:33**

d. **John 15:18-20**

e. **Matthew 24:9-12**

II. The Christian Life Experience

Without spiritual insight and experience, the Christian life doesn't appear too appealing! We are promised hardship and difficulty. If we are truly Christian the world will hate, persecute, and kill us as they did our Lord and His disciples. But He leaves us here; not to torment us but because of the incredible potential and value of the Christian life. It is for our benefit we remain and are given opportunity to serve and be used of the Lord for His honor and glory in this life and the one to come.

LISTEN!

If we are truly eternally secure once saved by the grace of God (John 6:37; John 10:28); why does Satan continue to tempt and seek to molest the saints of God? What is his interest in our lives after our souls have been delivered from sin, hell and the grave by the blood of Christ?

The short answer is that Satan sees the potential in our lives for the Lord. Our souls are secure, but our lives and works are still very much in play.

Christians should expect to face the common, sin-cursed effects of this world as God makes it to rain on the just and the unjust (**Matthew 5:45**). In addition, Christians should also expect the additional trouble of temptations, trials and potentially satanically-induced hardships as Job experienced.

Realizing then that Jesus prepared His disciples (and us) for what would come after salvation including these temptations, trials and hardships, there MUST be great potential to the Christian life! There must be value in our days here on earth between our conversion and our deliverance. What we do with this portion of our natural life, as a Christian, has eternal consequences. **2 Corinthians 4:5-11**

Facts about our Christian life (between conversion and deliverance):

1. The blessing of eternal life brings great responsibility to our Christian life. It is not ours to invest as we please.

Romans 12:1-2

I Corinthians 6:19-20

2. Our daily walk determines the success or failure of our life. Our whole duty is to "fear God and keep His commandments" daily. **Ecclesiastes 12:13 Romans 6:16-23**

3. Each day is eternally important

Our lives are no more than an accumulation of days. Some will live more days than others and it is not ours to know how many days we will enjoy by the Lord's grace. Regardless of our life's length, if saved, we are to invest ALL of our remaining days in the service of the Lord ONLY. Once a day has been spent/ invested, it can never return or be relived. Thus, it behooves us to appreciate the finite nature of our lives and understand the tremendous value of this fixed quantity.

III. The Christian at Judgment

a. The purpose of judgment

Judgment is not a determination of salvation or damnation. John 3 tells us that those who believe upon the Lord will be saved and those who believe not are condemned already. Judgment is about the manifestation of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God and Savior of fallen men. It is not about men at any point.

b. All men will be judged by God according to the books.

c. The redeemed shall have our works judged. We are to live by faith (**Hebrews 10:38**) and James states that faith without works is dead (**James 2:26** "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"). Further, our lives will be judged according to privilege and the resulting works accumulated during the days of our lives. Therefore...

d. Not all equally saved people will have equal rewards in heaven which will translate into our ability / privilege to glorify the Lamb for ETERNITY!

Revelation 20:12-13

I Corinthians 3:11-15

IV. The Christian in Heaven

a. Christians are above angels in Heaven. While angels also have free will, only mankind has been given the opportunity for redemption. The angels cannot sing the Song of Moses or the Song of Redemption which speak of the defeat of the foe, the expectation of saints and the exaltation of the Lord.

b. The Four and Twenty Elders

Revelation 4:10-11

V. The Disadvantage of the Thief on the Cross (disadvantage: loss, drawback, handicap)

What disadvantage? The man got saved a few short minutes before he entered into eternity?!?

Luke 23:39-43

This man was saved and committed very few, if any, sins between being saved and entering heaven. Isn't that the best case scenario? Nope. He had no opportunity to choose to serve the Lord and to invest additional days into the Lord's service.

NOTE:

A Christian who seeks to do good and glorify God for his own eternal standing or status will soon fall off; such a life must be motivated by a genuine love which will naturally produce works of righteousness for the glory of God and His Kingdom. It must be for Him and not ourselves!

Matthew 5:16

VI. Conclusion

Created equal but not ending equal

a. Thomas Jefferson wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." He did so while owning over 200 slaves who weren't freed even after his death.

b. While natural life is obviously not an equal experience among Adam's race, true salvation is an equal gift from soul to soul. Jude called it a "common salvation" (Jude 3) meaning the redeemed have the exact same peace with God and promise of eternal life gained at the moment of eternal salvation.

c. Judgment will be universal, executed by the Son of God, and will provide a distinction between men who are saved (sheep) and those lost in their sins (goats). (Matthew 25:31-46) It will also reveal the quality of each Christian's life through God's eyes. **Our stewardship of the precious life God gave us will be graded!**

Noted my grandparents' generation (the greatest generation?) to be "good" people who lived quiet, contented lives. They did not seek to impress each other or live a flashy lifestyle. They were a generation of service-minded, self-deprecating people who were passionate about the Lord and His church. They were wise, investing in a life to come at the expense of this present world. They understood that this life is about the next (eternal) life.

Matthew 6:19-21 Romans 8:18 Matthew 20:25-28

²⁵ But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

²⁶ But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

²⁷ And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

²⁸ Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

According to the world, my grandparents were fairly boring people; my parents, too, are somewhat boring. I desire to be increasingly boring, to be so boring that my children and grandchildren can know what a genuine, eternally- invested Christian life looks like??