What Are You Worth?

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 3rd, 2019

Text: I Pet. 1:17-19

### Intro

1. All things have value (“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure”).
   1. Our economy is based on our ability to arrive at the value of most commodities.
      1. Gold & silver
      2. Stocks
      3. Cattle & grain
      4. Real estate
      5. Oil & gas
   2. Commodities prized above others become the standard by which the value of other things is established.
      1. For many years gold drove the economy standard.
      2. Now, the world wants “dollars” or “pounds” or “euros.”
      3. In the future, the standard may be something else.
   3. The value of things changes.
      1. As supply & demand grows, the values of things adjust accordingly.
      2. Gasoline prices are up because demand is high and production is regulated.
      3. This in turn affects everything from a gallon of milk to the postage stamp.
2. People have value too, and we’ll see what value from an economic perspective & from God’s.

#### You Have Value

* 1. According to the U.S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils the human body consists of the following materials in these approximate proportions:
     1. 65% Oxygen
     2. 18% Carbon
     3. 10% Hydrogen
     4. 3% Nitrogen
     5. 1.5% Calcium
     6. 1.1% Phosphorous
     7. 0.35% Potassium
     8. 0.25% Sulfur
     9. 0.15% Sodium
     10. Additionally, it is discovered that our bodies contain trace quantities of fluorine, silicon, manganese, zinc, copper, aluminum, and arsenic.
         1. Combined with all the above ingredients amounts to less than $1!
     11. Our most valuable asset is our skin. Cut and dried, the average person is the proud owner of 14 to 18 sq. ft. of skin!
         1. Basing the skin’s value on the selling price of cowhide (approx. $.25 per sq. ft.), the average person’s skin amounts to $3.50!
  2. Your worth from an economic perspective is greater:
     1. Many have life insurance.
     2. In addition to that, some also have certain body parts insured (mostly celebrities)!
     3. Thus, those who do are “worth more dead than alive.”
  3. If you are healthy, individual organs may have monetary value:
     1. It is estimated that if the sale of human organs for transplantation were allowed, a kidney would go for $15,000 and a liver for about $35,000. (Gary Becker, Economist – [www.becker-posner-blog.com](http://www.becker-posner-blog.com))
     2. In 1983 a Virginia company, headed by H. Barry Jacobs, announced the 1st scheme to buy and sell human organs. Under his proposed arrangement, a healthy, live “donor” would set a price for a kidney up to $10,000 and the recipient would pay this amount plus a $2,000 - $5,000 broker fee to Jacobs (*Medscape Today,* Gwen Mayes, [www.medscape.com/viewarticle/465200](http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/465200)).
  4. In view of all this, the fact is we live in a time when that which should be prized the most (human life), is prized the least – “life is cheap.”
     1. To the evolutionist: “a further development.”
     2. To the materialist: “just something to be adorned.”
     3. To the atheist: “nothing more than an animal.”
     4. To the ecologist: “a destabilizing influence on the environment.”
     5. To the industrialist: “a cog in a big machine.”
     6. To the militarist: “a fighting machine.”
     7. To the government: “a taxpayer I.D. and potential voter.”
     8. To the abortionist: “a mass of tissue.”
     9. To the euthenist: “something to be put out of its misery.”
  5. However, your value is not determined by your body’s element makeup or by the philosophies of the day. (Your real worth is determined by Him who created you.)
     1. Most of what we buy and sell is manufactured goods, raw materials transferred by process into usable substances that have additional value (wheat, cow’s milk, hen’s eggs, etc.).
     2. The value of those things is set by the manufacturer and market conditions.
  6. Man is the creation of God’s hands (Gen. 2:7) – He determines the worth!

#### “What Is Man That You Take Thought Of Him?”

* 1. Ps. 8:3-9; Heb. 2:5-10 *(Heb. 2:10; Eph. 1:7):* “What is man?”
  2. Man is a living soul made in the image of God.
     1. Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7: God made man in His image & gave him the breath of life.
     2. Gen. 1:28-30: God made man above the animals and made them subject to him.
        1. Man is like the animals in that they both have “life.” *(Gen. 1:30; 2:7)*
        2. There is a distinction between man & animals (Eccl. 3:19-21; 12:7) – both live and die, but man’s spirit returns to God, animals to the earth.
     3. Man is body and soul, flesh and spirit.
        1. The body or flesh is the house/tent in which the spirit/soul dwells *(II Pet. 1:14; II Cor. 5:1-9).*
        2. Our personality, will and desires are associated with the inner man, the spirit *(I Cor. 9:27; II Cor. 5:2,4; II Pet. 1:12-16).*
        3. The inner man will survive the outer man in death *(II Cor. 4:16; Js. 2:26; Mt. 10:28; Lk. 23:46; Eccl. 12:7).*
     4. As an order of being, man is “a little lower than the angels.” *(Heb. 2:5-9)*
        1. Meaning our fleshly nature *(Heb. 2:16; Js. 1:14).*
        2. Meaning the potential for salvation *(Heb. 1:14; II Pet. 2:4).*
        3. Meaning our mortality *(Gen. 2:17; Heb. 9:27).*
  3. God created man and provided the means for redemption for him *(Eph. 1:7; Heb. 2:10)!*

#### What Is Man Worth?

* 1. Man is worth more than the commodities of trade and commerce:
     1. Worth more than sparrows – Mt. 10:29-31
     2. Worth more than sheep – Mt. 12:10-13
     3. Worth more than an ox or donkey – Lk. 13:13-17
     4. Worth more than combined riches of the world – Mt. 16:24-26
  2. God declared the exact value of man on Calvary…
     1. Man is so valuable to God that He was willing to let His only begotten Son die for the sins of man (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8-10; I Jn. 4:9-10).
        1. *Jesus didn’t die for sparrows, sheep, oxen, or for wealth!*
     2. God’s own Son is the price He paid (I Cor. 6:19-20) to redeem mankind in Jesus’ own blood! (Eph. 1:7)
     3. The price was Christ’s precious blood (I Pet. 1:17-19).
        1. Not silver or gold (man’s standard for value) – but blood of Son of God!
     4. God declared to mankind the value of man – worth the blood of Jesus!
  3. Since the value of any commodity is determined by the price men are willing to pay, we get an idea of what man is worth to God!

## Conclusion

1. All things have value – what others are willing to pay for them.
2. What are you worth?
   1. The precious, innocent blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29)
3. Despite the worth of man as measured by man, you have great value to God!
   1. While the world around us may cheapen & devalue human life…don’t be disheartened about your worth!
4. Jesus shed His blood to redeem you that you might spend eternity with Him!
5. Do you recognize your great value and serve Him who redeemed you?
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!