

# *2001 Proclaimer*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2*

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A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the  
Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001

## **The Worth of a Man**

*by Gordon Wilson*

The teachings of Jesus during His earthly ministry abound in expressions revealing His attitude toward humanity. Discussion is given to man's origin, his destiny, his duty, his nature, his sin, and his salvation. Outstanding in this collection are those passages in which the Master gives voice to His estimate of the value of a single human being.

While our Lord did not speak in modern terms of "the dignity of man," it is clear that He endorsed the teaching of the eighth Psalm. The Psalm teaches that man, although appearing puny when compared to the heavens and the earth, and all of the works of God's fingers, is yet lord of creation; man is but a little lower than God, and has been set over the animal world to exercise dominion (and to exercise responsibility, we might add). Human superiority is rooted in the vast expanse separating us from all other creatures, from the standpoint of intellect, moral debt, and spiritual capacity. It is founded on the concept of the divine image in man --man alone.

If the divine image has in us been corrupted and despoiled, the spark still smolders and can be fanned again into flame. But why "if"? Jesus definitely asserts that man is fallen. With all of his dignity, with

all of his bright prospect, with all of the favor shown him, each man is lost. The Lord taught that He was the great physician come to heal the spiritually sick. He was the shepherd searching through valley and cranny to find the sheep who has strayed. He was the missionary come to seek and to save that which was lost. He was the sacrificial lamb being offered up to take away the sin of the world. Jesus not only endorsed the eighth Psalm regarding the dignity of man, but also the fourteenth Psalm: "They are all gone aside; they are together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." And He who loved us and gave Himself for us could grieve over what He saw in man --that lordly creature with the glorious beginning and the despicable end.

Oh, but this human condition was not to be the end after all! Jesus perceived the yearning of hearts that, being darkened, still remembered the light. The worth of a man lies at least partly in his susceptibility to change. If the rebel creature could be persuaded to lay down his arms (repentance), and could be taught to trust in the doing of God (faith), it was possible for him to be born anew through water and the Spirit and to become a faithful subject of the reign of heaven. The amazing condescension and sacrifice

required to bring this about can be accounted for only by the divine estimate of man's worth.

Let me not be misunderstood: worth, not worthiness. Man was and is worth saving, but not a single individual is worthy of the salvation that he receives. Our offenses rise to God as odors of decay, and looking on our depravity He sees none who merit a single crumb from His rich table. But, praise Him, He is also able to see us not only as guilty criminals, but as victims of crime. He knows the influences that make us what we are, and comes to us with both grace and mercy to present a stronger influence: that of His unlimited love.

So He tells us what to do, and enables us to do it. The good news spoken by the Lord quickens us and its reception raises us and makes us to sit with Him in the heavenlies. Our potential as sons of God is realized in Christ. He who created us knows what is in us to be developed --not by education or evolution, but by the power of divine truth working within souls of more value than the entire world.

Elders/Deacons meeting at 5 PM

Song & Prayer Service at  
6:00 PM

## *The Pursuit of Happiness*

1. **Forget about finding happiness. Happiness is not worthy of your search.**
2. **Bake a cake - a really rich cake, preferably from scratch and *especially* if you are an inexperienced baker – or a tested, tried, & notoriously awful cook. The value is in the baking more than in the cake.**
3. **Call up some enemy of yours and invite that enemy to eat the cake with you. If the cake is good you may lose an enemy and gain a friend. If the cake is bad, at least vengeance is sweet.**
4. **If you can't think of a single enemy, then call up a friend. Invite your friend over to eat the cake with you. If the cake is good the favor may be returned. If the cake is awful your friend may go buy one from a bakery for you. If you are without any enemies or friends, take your cake to an old folks' home. Eat it with them! If the cake is good you will no longer be without friends. If the cake is terrible you will no longer be without enemies.**

Finding a friend, making an enemy - now those are things worth pursuing. Happiness may come tagged on - but even if it doesn't, at least you will have done something and established some relationships.

5. **Memorize Isaiah 40 or the first Psalm or Psalm 91. Read the closing chapters of the Book of Job. Meditate on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). Write out one of the Prison Epistles (Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians) and send them to some other unhappy person.**

All of this may not make you happy but it will tell you how to be holy. Once you tie that knot you may find yourself in a position to be made happy.

6. **Work hard. Clean something. Find new and more space-efficient ways of folding your clothes. Rake someone else's yard for them. If you are unhappy maybe you can help someone else be less so.**
7. **Go back to Lamentations 3 and then repeat after me:**  
*"It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear The yoke while he is young. Let him sit alone in silence For the Lord has laid it on him."*
8. **Reread the 23rd Psalm and remember that if the Lord is your shepherd, then you are in a lush pasture. You are by a still stream. If it seems otherwise to you, it may be because you would rather be happy than be God's. If this is so, then you have *more* reason to be happy than anyone. God has chosen *you* - ungrateful, decadent you - and being His is a joy and a happiness that goes beyond anything else you may seek, and in your folly settle for. God will (in His mercy) make you discontent with anything less than Him.**

So we have only one step left...

## 9. **REJOICE!**

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*"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

--Micah 6:8

**PLEASE BE REMINDED OF THOSE WHO  
ARE AILING – AND THOSE WHO ARE  
TENDING TO THEM.**

*William & Helen Gray* *Evie Westphal*  
*Sue & Truman Claiborne*  
*Josie Steadman* *Rena Shultz*  
*Sarah Weber* *Steve Ries dad in Grants Pass, OR*  
*Steve Bryants dad in Bend, OR*

**THOSE TRAVELING:**

*Gordon Wilson* preaching in Orland today.  
*Maxine Wilson* in New York; *Rusks* in Grass Valley

**Thank you for your ministering efforts to those  
who are ill. May God bless all of our serving!**

**SERVICES HERE:**

**SUNDAY:**

Classes	9:00 AM
Worship	9:55 AM
Eve Worship	6:00 PM

**WEDNESDAY:**

Classes	7:30 PM
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**BE EXHORTED**

*"Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat,  
drink the sweet, and send portions to those for  
whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to  
our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the  
LORD is your strength.'" (Neh 8:10)*

**Ten Rules for Happier Living:**

1. Give something away (no strings attached).
2. Do a kindness (and forget it).
3. Spend time with the aged (the experience is priceless).
4. Look intently into the face of a baby (and marvel).
5. Laugh often (it's life's lubricant).
6. Give thanks to God (a thousand times a day is not enough).
7. Pray (or you will lose the way).
8. Work (with vim and vigor).
9. Plan as if you'll live forever (you will, in either heaven or hell).
10. Live as though you will die tomorrow (because you will die on some tomorrow).

(From Pulpit Helps)

**THE ESSENCE OF  
CHRISTIAN LIVING**

A little girl, on the way home from church, turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me."

"The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?"

The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true, too?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the girl. "if God is bigger than us and he lives in us, wouldn't he show through?"

This little girl said it all. If God lives in us, then there's no way of keeping Him from "showing through". That's the essence of Christian living -- living in such a way that people around will see God in our lives.

He'll show through! A simple question as you start your day: Is God "showing through" in your life?

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*

*[Author is unknown to me – V.Wilson]*

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**No one seems to want constructive criticism; it's all we can do to put up with constructive praise.**

We, ourselves, must believe the things we tell our children.

The man who is never very strong *against* anything is seldom very strong *for* anything.

You can never get ahead of someone as long as you are trying to get even with him.

